

**BUSINESS MEETING
DRAFT**

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.
- B. ROLL CALL:** C. Brown, Chairman; T. Franciosa, Vice Chairman; B. Mutrie, A. Tonry; G. Parish; S. Volpone; Members M. Kasprzak, Selectmen's Representative; P. Stone, Alternate Member; K. Croteau, Secretary; D. Smith, Circuit Rider Planner

C. ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC) REPRESENTATIVE

At 6:00 p.m. D. Smith introduced D. Walker, Senior Transportation Specialist from the RPC.

D. Walker presented a map outlining preliminary ideas for the Hampton Falls portion of the Route 1 Corridor Study. The Route 1 Corridor Study includes all towns from Seabrook to Portsmouth on Route 1. The study is designed to improve the infrastructure for safer roads, policy and regulation changes on a local level and the final part is related to streetscaping and landscaping for aesthetics. He explained that the proposed improvements include widening to a 5-lane road in Seabrook to taper off to a 3-lane road in Hampton Falls. A proposed raised median designed to minimize left turns is included on the map for Hampton Falls. He explained that the volume of traffic requires a 5-lane road but the townspeople of Hampton Falls do not want a 5-lane road.

C. Brown said she was surprised to see a median included in the proposed design, she thought there was a strong opposition to a median in Hampton Falls from the business district in that it would keep people away from the town center. She noted a second concern in that Lincoln Avenue issues were not addressed.

D. Walker said a median approach might not be included until signal and circulation issues were addressed.

There was lengthy discussion regarding the different options for signals and traffic flow.

C. Brown asked if there were any questions from the Board.

G. Parish asked about the safety factors of the raised medians.

D. Walker stated there were calculations that could be done but that generally roads with raised center medians are safer.

T. Franciosa said the main concern was the traffic flow and asked if there were any recommendations as to how better traffic flow could be facilitated.

D. Walker said again, widening the road is justified with the volume but that is not wanted by the townspeople. Another recommendation would be to reduce the number of driveways which would improve on and off road access, fewer driveways improve flow, driveways are disruptive to flow.

T. Franciosa asked if the State had a plan for a start date for work here and if the town did decide to enact part of the study would the State be willing to work a partial enactment?

D. Walker stated the work Hampton Falls is doing with the Re-Vision with zoning and access roads will all benefit in the long run and be helpful with getting onto the 10-year plan.

B. Mutrie questioned the procedure for getting access roads done.

D. Walker said he has seen it work as a piecemeal process asking for property owners for access over time.

C. Brown asked for questions from the public.

**BUSINESS MEETING
DRAFT**

The following concerns were raised:

Todd Santora asked how Hampton Falls traffic compared to Seabrook. He also asked if widening Route 1 north and south of the town center had been considered. D. Walker said at Route 107 in Seabrook there were 30,000 cars per day compared to 22,000 – 24,000 in Hampton Falls. Widening north and south of town center would involve wetlands and also there are a fairly minimal amount of driveways there. He stated this was just a preliminary plan and that a 10-year plan would be more in-depth and provide a much clearer picture.

C. Brown asked if there was any more comment for D. Walker.

D. NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT

R. McDermott, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen introduced Bill Lambert, Doug Porter and Peter Crouch from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) at 6:40 p.m.

P. Stone left the meeting at this time.

Bill Lambert, State Traffic Engineer from DOT addressed the group and said the DOT had checked the signal equipment and found everything working appropriately as designed. They looked at the timing at this location and he stated the diagnostics have been done and show no problems.

C. Brown asked for questions from the business owners.

Liz Webster from Dodges Agway raised concerns regarding tourists not familiar with the lights, there is a second light there, and she feels there is poor signage.

Paul Lepere asked if the DOT was aware of the gridlock that occurs coming up from Route 107 in Seabrook to the town center between 4 and 6 p.m., that it is impossible to turn right onto Route 1 from Route 84 at that time of day and that the traffic is cleared up after the lights.

This began a lengthy discussion regarding the lights and the many problems that occur there with waiting through traffic cycles and noted inconsistencies.

Both Bill and Peter from DOT asked questions regarding these occurrences.

D. Robinson, Road Agent asked if it would be advantageous to implement a right on red lane on Lincoln Avenue.

P. Santora asked if the lights could be updated.

B. Lambert said there were different programs available such as a highway project but there would need to be a documented safety issue based on data crash history otherwise it looks like a

**BUSINESS MEETING
*DRAFT***

10-year plan or a betterment program is what we are looking at here. State aid highway and highway only apply if there is a crash history here.

R. McDermott noted that the business owner's main concern is to move the traffic.

Sue. Fisher, a town resident who lives behind Citizens Bank said she has witnessed at least 12 crashes.

Liz Webster said traffic also increases on Route 1 when the tolls go up on Interstate 95.

B.Mutrie asked about having a road go through Janvrin Lumber.

D.Walker said that would involve a right of way but is possible.

P. Santora brought up the idea of a blinking yellow light.

B. Lampert said the DOT could do a more thorough check given the concerns raised tonight.

T. Franciosa asked if we needed new technology.

B. Lambert thinks the changes can be made with current system, changes may be frustrating to local traffic.

S. Volpone said this may be an acceptable compromise.

C. Brown asked if there were any more questions.

D. Smith asked if there were any more questions for the Rockingham Planning Commission and said they would be looking to implement some of these strategies.

At this point a discussion took place with Wayne Barker from the Church regarding a parking lot on the Dumont land between the Church and the ball fields. D. Robinson said it was an ideal location for a parking lot.

M. Fecteau asked the Board if any consideration had been given to the question of sewer and water from Seabrook.

After discussion C. Brown said she and D. Smith are hoping to get a meeting scheduled in January with Seabrook regarding sewer, it would be a public meeting, an exploratory meeting with no public comment at this point.

C.Brown asked if there was any more discussion on the grant.

**BUSINESS MEETING
DRAFT**

D. Smith reported on the progress of the grant stating public comment had been received and a meeting had been held with Seabrook. They are looking to have focus groups with kids in schools for outreach as well with the historical society and elderly in town within the next month or two.

The Ordinance and Review Committee will meet again on January 9th, 2013 at 7:30 a.m.

E. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Two grammatical corrections were identified.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November meeting as amended.

MOTION: M. KASPRZAK

SECOND: G. PARISH

UNANIMOUS

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Committee Reports: The minutes of the October 24 and November 14, 2012 Ordinance and Regulations Review Committee meetings were acknowledged for the record.
2. The minutes of the Heritage Commission November 17, 2012 meeting were acknowledged for the record.
3. The deadline schedule for Planning Board and Board of Adjustment for 2013 was acknowledged.

G. COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD MEMBERS

A letter from the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources regarding property at 153 Lafayette Road was acknowledged by the Board.

H. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

MOTION: A. TONRY

SECOND: S. VOLPONE

UNANIMOUS