Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee Minutes March 10, 2021 (210310) Zoom meeting

Present: Joel Arbeitman, Tony Lewis, David Rosenblum, Marty Ring, Preston Crow, Valerie Paul, Rob Scherer

Absent: Chuck Lidz

Guests: Jenn Ball, Doug Costello (town resident interested in joining the committee), Rich Shelley (only identified by Zoom name)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Joel introduced Doug Costello who has filled out a town talent bank form and is interested in joining our committee. Doug lives in the Pine Lake community. Attendee with Zoom name Rich Shelley did not respond to greeting by the chair.

Jenn Ball updated us on the RFP’s for the Trolley Brook Trail (TBT). There is an RFP for the bridge including delivery, but the bridge will be installed by the general contractor. Bids have been received for steel, timber and composite bridges. Using the bid process, the town must take the lowest bid which was for a steel bridge or reject all bids. Joel asked about weight capacity. Jenn said that BSC put these in the bid specs and also said that the bidders must be on the MassDot list. Joel asked about timing. Jenn said 4-7 weeks. Marty said that the bridge builder will coordinate with the general contractor. Marty asked about aesthetics of the bridge. Jenn said she will contact the low bidder about this. Joel asked for pictures of similar bridges they have done. Joel was concerned about surface traction on the bridge. Jenn said we are allowed to add surface treatments later with additional cost.

Jenn said that the main contractor would install the bridge. The main contractor bid includes earth works, layout, bridge installation and trail surfacing (and other items). She thought the bid would be out very soon and had to be open for a minimum of 2 weeks. The town is looking to have the bid specs online next week and bid to be open through March 31. Construction would get going in the spring and that the $50,000 grant money had to be spent by June 30, 2021.

The order of conditions for the TBT has been written by the Conservation Commission. This includes an invasive species survey. Jenn will reach out to DEP and EPA. Rob asked about Bill Paille of BSC’s input. Jenn did not know why Bill was not at tonight’s meeting, but Jenn is scheduling a meeting for next week if Bill is available, trying for March 18. Joel asked about the clerk of the works function. Jenn thought that Bill could do this, but it was not part of his current contract.

Valerie left the meeting at 7:59pm.

Jenn talked about the project tentative schedule. Start the first week in May. 60-90 days to complete. Joel asked about delayed work. Jenn will look into this. Joel asked about warranty. Jenn said that Peter Matchak (Town Planner) and Doug Small (DPW Director) would look at the specs for the project.

Jenn left the meeting at 8:16pm.

Joel talked about COVID grants he saw mentioned in Metrowest Daily News article about Hudson. Joel thought that Megunko Rd to Stone Park trail segment might be a good use of such a grant. Bids were
due February 28. The town has applied for grant to widen Front St sidewalks. A committee member said that it was a town staff function to get grants. Peter M. will be working on the TBT project.

Joel talked about the High Street property that is currently for sale near Ramblewood and Whittemore roads. Joel has been in contact with the realtor. Rob suggested Select Board input on what to do to get use of the property for the trail. The consensus of the committee is that this property is key to getting the trail from Whittemore to the rail transit district and is, by far, the best route for this part of the trail. Rob talked about the possibility of getting the Friends of the Trail to raise funds for appraisal of the property.

Doug Costello asked about the part of the trail we were discussing. Preston used town GIS maps to show routes from High Street to Hopkinton.

Rob left the meeting at 8:57pm.

Motion to approve minutes of January 7, 2021 meeting made by Marty, seconded by Preston. Passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm. Motion by Marty, seconded by Preston, 5-0.

List of Documents discussed:
GIS mapping on town web site