Meeting Minutes: November 4, 2019
Town Hall, Ashland, MA

Members Present: William Child, Martin Ring, Amy Sayed, Judith Sallet, Roberta Soolman, Jeanne Walker

Members Absent: Greg Wands

Guests Present: Town Manager Michael Herbert, Kevin Kennedy, Amy Kennedy, Ray Trainor, Ken Ramsley, Linda Weene

Welcome and Introductions:
Ms. Soolman called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and welcomed guests. Everyone introduced themselves.

Riverwalk:
Mr. Herbert provided an update on the information requested at the 10/23 meeting. Police Chief Alfano says that the lighting is an issue of liability based on his experience, and that he is not citing any code or law. Mr. Herbert also said that Town Counsel Lisa Mead said that the town has a little bit of liability, but more liability if there is building code that says we need to have lights. Ms. Soolman thanked Mr. Herbert for checking.

Ms. Soolman provided the attendees a copy of Chapter 10 – Section 1006.1 through Section 1006.4 of Massachusetts State Building Code which she received from Mike Crisafulli, the Ashland Building Commissioner, with handwritten language added to the code. Mr. Crisafulli believes that this code applies to both the long-span bridge and the Observation Platform. Ms. Soolman stated that Chapter 10 – Section 1006 deals with lighting egress from a building to a public pathway and doesn’t seem applicable to outside trails. She stated that she is concerned about the lengthy list of other places in town that would need to be lit if this code were applied to the bridge. She is also concerned that the support of abutters for the project would be at risk. Mr. Herbert stated that building code is not black and white. Mr. Trainor asked who designed the bridge and if the structural engineer required lights. Mr. Trainor raised concerns that someone would cross the bridge and then be in the dark, creating a safety concern for the first houses on the trail. Mr. Kennedy asked if it was known why the Arch Bridge in Holliston was not lit, as it is higher and is also over water. Mr. and Ms. Kennedy raised concerns about the steps on the trail that abut their property and the impact if it is decided those need to be lit, and that people on the trail will exit through their yard.

Ms. Sallet asked if a sign could be put up stating that the bridge is closed from dusk to dawn, and that if you are on the bridge during those times you are trespassing. Ms. Weene stated that a simple sign had been in the Mill Pond parking lot and people respected it.

Ms. Soolman thanked Mr. Herbert for the time spent on this issue, but she was unsure if we will reach an agreement on the issue. She asked if we are trying to solve a problem that does not exist. She expressed concern for the abutters that supported project and who do not want the lights.
Mr. Herbert asked if we could reconvene. Ms. Kennedy stated that neighbors will know what is going on. Mr. Ramsley asked what other towns are doing with similar projects. Mr. Herbert agreed to have conversations with other communities on how they handled this issue with similar projects and if each sides’ concerns could be met other ways.

**Next Meeting is November 12, 2019**

Upon motion by Mr. Ring, seconded by Ms. Walker, the OSRC voted (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Sayed

**Documents Reviewed During Meeting:**
Chapter 10 – Sections 1006.1 through 1006.4 of Massachusetts State Building Code