

Attendees

Deb Howe
Chris Bibbo
Ken Bassett
Margaret Olson
Paula Vaughn
Ginger Reiner
Sean Kennedy
David O'Neil
Barbara O'Neil

1. Minutes of the 13 July 2022 meeting were approved.

2. Sandy Pond Road/5 Corners Island Plan

The proposal for renovation of the Sandy Pond Road landscape island which was discussed in previous RTC meetings was reviewed with the key question being whether to proceed further with detailed design and construction documents. Concerns were raised relative to safety issues associated with such a complex intersection, and specifically the safety of pedestrian and bicycle movements through the intersection. Discussion/observations included:

- Public Safety records do not show this intersection to be unsafe compared to other intersections in Town. However, those records may not reflect the amount of "near misses" or "accidents waiting to happen" that may be occurring.
- Safety issues for cyclists and pedestrians are a major concern given the complexity of traffic movements as well as the length of travel routes for pedestrians.
- A safety concern was raised regarding what is seen as a "straight shot" for vehicles crossing from eastbound Sandy Pond Road to Weston Road.
- The concept of a modified roundabout or traffic circle was introduced. Another concept discussed was the realignment of eastbound Sandy Pond Road to eliminate the existing island, thus creating a direct alignment of all Sandy Pond lanes with the opposing Trapelo Road lanes.

Given the absence of adequate base material and the complexity of the topic it was agreed that the discussion should be continued to the next RTC meeting where the Town's consulting engineer can be present. **That meeting has been scheduled for Thursday March 2 at 7:30 am at the Donaldson room.**

3. Weston Road & Moccasin Hill Road Intersection

In response to neighborhood proposals for improvements to the intersection, the Town's consulting engineer proposed a realignment of Moccasin Hill Road traffic lanes that would create a more traditional T intersection and eliminate the existing "dead tree" island. Moccasin Hill neighbors joined the discussion to register concerns:

- Neighbors have concerns about northbound Moccasin Hill traffic that will be forced to a slow movement through the intersection then accelerate up a relatively steep grade with resulting vehicular noise and pollution. An option proposed by neighbors would provide a northbound "slip lane" that would allow northbound vehicles to maintain speed and avoid acceleration.
- Based on BPAC's Town-wide efforts to increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, the T intersection design has positive benefits in terms of slowing traffic through this intersection, both on Weston Road and on Moccasin Hill Road. In particular the T intersection would slow northbound Moccasin Hill traffic and in turn Weston Road traffic in this particular area.

- The idea of a "hybrid" solution was introduced where the T intersection would be modified to allow a smoother flow for northbound movement from Weston Road to Moccasin Hill Road. One important issue is how the adjacent private driveway is accommodated in any redesign.

It was agreed that more accurate base information is needed to advance the discussion. Once that is obtained refined options will be prepared for discussion at a future RTC meeting as well as at a site meeting with neighbors. Timing of the next steps will depend upon obtaining base information.

4. 2023 Paving Work-Maintenance.

Chris Bibbo reviewed DPW plans for partial road repaving, drainage, and berm repair projects scheduled for this summer, including 126, 117, Lincoln Road, and Trapelo Road.

5. Complete Streets Update

Magnolia Path Phase Two construction documents are nearing completion. Based upon a review of progress drawings several topics are noted:

- Removal of a portion of the existing stone wall on the north side of Codman Road may require Historic District and/or Planning Board review.
- Modifications of existing stone walls, existing pathway grades, and grades within the Police pasture may impact farm operations and should be coordinated with Codman Farm staff.
- Impacts on our removal of existing trees should be noted either on the plans and/or in the field.
- The need for flashing beacons for the new crosswalk was discussed. Arguments for the beacons relate to increased safety for pedestrians while the historic nature of this section of Codman Road might indicate minimizing the use of such hardware. No recommendation was concluded and reaching a decision may involve defining criteria for when such beacons are used, either on new or existing crosswalks.

A field visit will be scheduled to review these and other issues.

The meeting was concluded at 9:30 pm.