



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
NORTH HAMPTON. 24457, A002 (909)
NORTH HAMPTON SCHOOL
201 ATLANTIC AVE, NORTH HAMPTON, NH

October 18, 2018

7:00 P.M.

NAMES OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Charles "Chip" Noon, Chairman
Mr. Shawn Mickelonis

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Keith Cota, Chief Project Manager, Bureau of Highway Design NHDOT
Jonathan Hebert, Design Engineer, Bureau of Highway Design, NHDOT
Jonathan Evans, Environmental Manager, Bureau of Environment, NHDOT
Stephen LaBonte, Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Right of Way, NHDOT
Paul Coddington, Chief of Administration, Bureau of Right of Way, NHDOT
Dena Rae, Chief Agent, Bureau of Right of Way, NHDOT
Kayla Scaldini, Agent, Bureau of Right of Way, NHDOT
Cynthia Sullivan, Agent, Bureau of Right of Way, NHDOT
Susan Hubschmann, Hearings Coordinator, Bureau of Right of Way, NHDOT
Joseph Adams, Consultant Design Chief, Bureau of Bridge Design, NHDOT
Darren Blood, Project Manager, GM2
Thomas Levins, Structural Engineer, GM2
Transcriptionist from Duffy & McKenna Court Reporters
Thirty members of the public and one North Hampton Police Officer

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED

Chairman Noon called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm, stated the project and purpose of the hearing, and called on Keith Cota to provide an overview of the project.

Mr. Cota presented a broad overview of the project.

Jon Hebert presented a more detailed description of the project plan to include two possible scenarios for managing traffic during construction.

Mr. Cota introduced Jon Evans from the Bureau of Environment who presented the Environmental Study.

Mr. Cota introduced Steve LaBonte, Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Right-of-Way, who presented an overview of the Right-of-Way acquisition process.

Mr. Cota mentioned the 10-day period to present written comments, described the next steps in the process, the construction timeline and costs, and then concluded the formal presentation.

Chairman Noon called for any elected or town officials who would like to speak. There being none, Chairman Noon called on Mary Drake Hale to speak.

Mrs. Hale presented a photo of an aerial view of her property, and said that she does not want the state to have her land, and that the state was making a very bad decision. Mrs. Hale agreed that the North Road intersection was very dangerous, and had been since it was built. Mrs. Hale felt that the best solution would be a traffic signal at the current intersection would more appropriately solve the problem, and that moving the road would only move the same issues; that open space would be ruined for the want of a traffic light.

Mr. Noon asked Mrs. Hale to conclude her comments to give others a chance to speak.

Mr. Mickelonis requested that Mrs. Hale be allowed an extra three minutes to finish speaking as she came from her home in Colorado to be at the hearing.

Mr. Noon conceded and Mrs. Hale was allowed to keep speaking. She expressed frustration at being asked to stop speaking, as this was the only chance she would be given to convince the Commission Members that the plan to take her land and move North Road was not a good decision, and would not correct the issues the state was concerned with. She felt that the first concern should be the replacement of the bridge.

Jennifer Gosselin of 45 North Road was concerned as she had not found the correct project website. She also expressed concern about drainage during construction.

Mr. Cota addressed the issue of drainage during construction and beyond.

John Cafarella was called and did not respond.

Richard Luff of the Sagamore Golf Center at 22 North Road supported Mary Hale's comments, and went on to say that he was concerned about the timing of the bridge construction and possible closure and how it would potentially impact his business. He also asked about the relocation of his sign.

Mr. Cota responded that at this early stage there is not a timeline in place for construction, but it is anticipated that the first road construction would begin in early spring 2022.

Mr. Mickelonis asked Mr. Luff what he thought of the project.

Mr. Luff responded that no construction would be better for his business, but he could see the value as the intersections are dangerous.

Mr. Noon called on John Hubbard who did not respond.

Mr. Rhoades of Hubbington's Furniture expressed his support of Mrs. Hale, but did agree that the road is dangerous and needs to be changed. He mentioned that his busy season is opposite of the Sagamore Golf Center, and hoped that would be taken into consideration. He expressed his preference for a closure as opposed to the phase option.

Mark Hale of Colorado said that he was born and raised on Drake's Hill, and that the land was granted to his ancestors by King George in 1755. He said that he understood the need for the project, but hoped that an alternative plan could be reached.

Mr. Noon closed the hearing at 8:53 pm.

Minutes taken by Susan Hubschmann: _____

Dated: October 18, 2018

Cc: Victoria Sheehan, William Cass, Christopher Waszczuk, Peter Stamnas, all Attendees.

Noted by: Stephen G. LaBonte