

Salisbury Pathways Committee

Fifty-Ninths Meeting

Date and Time: Monday, June 14, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual via Zoom.

Present via Zoom: Natalia Smirnova, Kathy Trahan, Gerry Stanton, Chris Williams

Minutes:

Call to order -- 5:31 p.m.

1. Approval of the minutes of April 12, 2021.
Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Status of the Connectivity Grant.

- 1) Chris Williams reported that there is a problem with the bridge over Pettee Brook. The problem was raised by Hydraulics and Drainage Unit at the CTDOT about the Flood Management General Certification permit for work within the floodplain surrounding Pettee Brook. After review of the project, the permit application has been denied as the construction of a new bridge is not covered by this permit. (The email from May 26, 2021, from Marc Mancini to this effect is attached.)
- 2) Chris reported that Curtis and he are working with the engineering firm to find out a solution. Several solutions were presented, but each of them costs around \$30,000. One other solution is for the Town to assume the cost of the bridge (\$100,000) but have the money from the grant diverted to another Town's project. The opportunity for re-allocation of funds is now being discussed with the DOT. (The email from June 4, 2021, from Craig Babowicz to this effect is attached.)
- 3) Issues with property owners are being resolved. The town is working with property owners to provide lilac bushes as natural fencing and to replace one red maple tree that will be cut down.
- 4) New timeline – Fall. But the project is progressing through the bureaucracy. The DOT confirmed that the money is not being taken away from us even though we are beyond the three-year grant time frame.

3. Status of the Library-to-Salmon Kill Road Sidewalk.

Chris Williams reported that the sidewalk construction from the Library to Salmon Kill is on hold. The Town switched its priority to creating pedestrian beacons in three spots: White Hart, Town's Center, and the Salmon Kill crossing via Rail Trail. Crosswalks are Town's first priority.

For this project what needs to be done: (1) grade sticks to be put in; (2) RFP posted. Apparently, the engineering firm that was concentrating on these tasks, now is being asked to work on the beacons.

The Committee members expressed concerns about this project being put on the backburner. This project was ready for execution in the Fall, and we were waiting for the snow to melt to do the grade sticks. The snow has melted 3 months ago, and nothing was done. Now, the firm's attention is diverted to another project.

The Committee understands that pedestrian crossings are a safety issue. However, the sidewalk is also a safety issue in town. Sidewalk is an even larger safety issue because right now people are walking on the highway. But pedestrian crossings already exist in these three areas.

The Committee asked Chris Williams to talk with Curtis Rand and devise a compromise where the Library-Salmon Kill sidewalk will not be pushed over to give way to other projects. This project has a long history and a lot of work put into it – it deserves a fair chance within Town's priorities.

4. Citizens comments – no citizens were present.

5. New business:

Chris Williams reported on the Freedom of Information Act (FIA) workshop that he attended. The Committee members were provided with the link to the recording of this workshop. Committee members therefore are aware of proper procedures for conducting Committee's business.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Natalia V. Smirnova, Secretary, on June 15, 2021.

From: "Marc S. Mancini" <mmancini@slrconsulting.com>
Date: May 26, 2021 at 3:22:19 PM EDT
To: Curtis Rand <crand@salisburyct.us>
Cc: Christian Williams <bandit2spot1@yahoo.com>
Subject: Route 44 Sidewalk/Bridge

Hi Curtis,

We heard back from the Hydraulics and Drainage Unit at the CTDOT regarding our Flood Management General Certification permit for work within the floodplain surrounding Pettee Brook and after review of the project, the permit application has been denied as the construction of a new bridge is not covered by this permit.

Since the required permits are not clearly defined for the Community Connectivity Grant Program we initially reached out to Anna Bergeron, the CTDOT project manager, and she confirmed that "these type of improvements will be certified via the Department's FMC General permit through the Project Manager". Given this direction, we were confident that we would obtain the permit.

I immediately reached out to Anna and she laid out a few alternatives to get the project built. I'd like to set up a meeting with you, Chris and a couple of my colleagues on Tuesday afternoon (June 2) to discuss them.

Please let me know if this time works for you and Chris.

Marc

Marc S. Mancini, PE

Associate Transportation Engineer

D 475-244-2280

O 203-271-1773

C 203-217-6145

E mmancini@slrconsulting.com

SLR International Corporation
99 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410

From: "Babowicz, Craig J" <Craig.Babowicz@ct.gov>
Date: June 4, 2021 at 3:39:09 PM EDT
To: "Marc S. Mancini" <mmancini@slrconsulting.com>, "Bergeron, Anna" <Anna.Bergeron@ct.gov>
Cc: Curtis Rand <crand@salisburyct.us>, Christian Williams <bandit2spot1@yahoo.com>, "Anthony Ciriello Jr." <tciriello@slrconsulting.com>, "Matthew J. Sanford" <msanford@slrconsulting.com>
Subject: RE: Salisbury - CCGP

Hey Marc,

The question of the Grant Program being able to certify under the FM MOU has become a little bigger and is now in management's hands. So to answer your question, I do not have an answer for that yet.

As far as repurposing the portion of the funds allocated for the bridge, we would allow the scope to be modified provided the additional meets the goals of the program (Safety and Accessibility for Active Transportation). If this is something the Town would be interested in pursuing, we would ask that you put together a proposal and we can set something up to discuss. To revise the scope we would just have to approve the change and likely issue a revise commitment to fund letter.

Have a good weekend
Craig

Craig Babowicz, Transportation Supervising Planner
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Connecticut Department of Transportation
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Please visit:

[CTDOT Community Connectivity Grant Program](#)
[CTDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Dashboard](#)

****Please note, I am currently teleworking and can be reached via e-mail.****

From: Marc S. Mancini <mmancini@slrconsulting.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 3:01 PM

To: Bergeron, Anna <Anna.Bergeron@ct.gov>

Cc: Babowicz, Craig J <Craig.Babowicz@ct.gov>; Curtis Rand <crand@salisburyct.us>; Christian Williams <bandit2spot1@yahoo.com>; Anthony Ciriello Jr. <tciriello@slrconsulting.com>; Matthew J. Sanford <msanford@slrconsulting.com>

Subject: Salisbury - CCGP

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Anna,

I just spoke with Curtis and Christian from Town of Salisbury regarding their options for the CCGP project and I have a couple of questions for you:

1. Have you or Craig heard back regarding the project's eligibility for the MOU Program?
2. If the Town decided to pay for the construction of the bridge with Town funds to avoid the CTDOT/CTDEEP permit process, can they use the remaining CCGP funds for the construction of sidewalk elsewhere in town to avoid losing ~\$100k? How much flexibility would the town have to reallocate funding/what would a revision in project scope require on your end?

Thank you,
Marc

Marc S. Mancini, PE

Associate Transportation Engineer

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