

MINUTES OF MEETING OF May 14, 2018

South Royalton Village Sidewalk Scoping Study
Royalton, VT
MAX-2018045.00

DATE PREPARED: May 30, 2018

LOCATION: Royalton Town Hall
2460 Vt Route 14, South Royalton, VT 05068

ATTENDEES: John Dumville, Library Board Larry Trottier, Selectboard
LuAnn Bingham, Town Treasurer Cynthia Dalrymple
Frank Romeo, WRVSU Harry Dodge, Resident
Karen Broadwell, Business Employee

PURPOSE: Downtown Stakeholders

DISCUSSION:

Carolyn provided an overview of the project scope and schedule. She reviewed that the Town had applied for a received a grant from VTTrans to conduct a scoping study for sidewalks in the South Royalton village center. We have just begun and are collecting data and public input. There will be a broadly noticed public input session (Local Concerns Meeting) on June 6th at the Royalton Academy. GPI will develop alternatives over the summer and we will have an alternatives community meeting in September shortly after Labor Day when people are back from summer vacation. We will finalize the scoping study by the end of the year so that the Town can begin 2019 planning for implementation.

COMMENTS:

1. Consider making Acton Street one-way with angled parking to address the parking needs of the thrift shop and the hair salon.
2. Business owners are concerned about construction impacts associated with the sidewalk project.
3. Deliveries: the driveway behind the commercial block is privately owned not well maintained. Could the deliveries be made from the rear? The turn is too tight for trucks.
4. Trucks parked in the middle of Chelsea Street is dangerous, particularly for pedestrians. Cars cannot see pedestrians which are blocked by parked trucks.
5. A previous study suggested one-way traffic around the green. We don't want that.
6. There was some discussion regarding the expense of accessibility improvements to the commercial businesses. One issue is the basement windows at sidewalk level. Carolyn noted the windows are a challenge. She also noted the historic buildings are grandfathered with respect to ADA, but we have an aging population, particularly in Vermont, and will look at options for access.
7. Consider 90-degree parking versus angled parking around the green.

8. Post office trucks also create obstacles for pedestrians. Maybe the post office should be relocated outside of town? The traffic is confused by the post office.
9. Water Trough. Creates confusion for traffic. Perhaps move to corner of the green. That was rejected – part of the one-way circulation idea.
10. Consider extending sidewalks to Green Valley Road extension. There are a lot of housing units and pedestrians.
11. There is a problem with cars speeding through the underpass of Safford and Railroad Street by the Library.
12. Due to poor sidewalk conditions pedestrians walk in the street at times. The law students create challenges in the village for drivers by jaywalking, wearing black at night, etc. Carolyn noted that this is not unusual in a college town and mentioned educational outreach is a good way to address these issues. The Hanover bike/ped committee has done this with Dartmouth College.
13. Pedestrian and bicyclist considerations with respect to the South Royalton School were discussed. A number of kids bike to school. It would be good to extend the sidewalk to Green Valley Apartments (Caron Circle).
14. The loading arrangement on Chelsea Street is dangerous for pedestrians. High School students and school staff walk to Chelsea Street and the safety issues are a worry.
15. School students also walk and bicycle to Carpenter Field along North/South Windsor Street. There is the possibility of a river trail, and this has been discussed in the past, but there is one landowner that is not agreeable to having a trail across their property. The school would help maintain the trail.
16. The school kids walk to the library and do community projects there. There are not sidewalks on Safford Street.

These minutes constitute our understanding of the discussions. Please advise us within ten (10) days, in writing, of any exceptions or corrections.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Radisch, Senior Transportation Planner

cc: Rose Hemond