

Town of Oxford

Public Hearing

August 3, 2016

First Selectman George Temple called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. The purpose of this public meeting required by the State is to discuss the proposed reconstruction of Hawley Road from Willenbrock Road to Christian Street. The Town Engineer will provide an overview of the proposed improvements to Hawley Road at the Public Hearing and address concerns. A copy of the proposed plan will be available in the town Clerk's office on Monday, July 25, 2016. First Selectman Temple introduced Bryan Nesteriak, our Town Engineer, and Robbi Costigan, Grant Writer, will be assisting him.

The Town Engineer, Bryan Nesteriak, presented the preliminary project for the reconstruction of Hawley Road from Willenbrock Road to Christian Street. This project qualifies for grants. The State and Federal grants will reimburse the town for 100% of the construction costs of the road. Public interaction is strongly recommended. The road is curvy, windy, with steep grade changes and is used by the citizens of Oxford and commercial/industrial traffic. The intention is to soften some of the horizontal alignments and vertical alignments and make it a safer easier road for travel. The majority of the impact that is identified is from Nichols Road to about 500 feet. The plans are preliminary and this is not an exact survey. The town is trying to collect data to identify what the impacts are and to address these. Mr. Nesteriak reviewed the preliminary designs. The whole purpose is to try to get feedback from the residents.

Comments and questions by the public were raised.

Mr. Tomporowski, 20 Hawley Road, asked about the speed limit and asked if it will make the speed faster on the road since there is a great deal of truck traffic. Mr. Tomporowski stated that you hear the trucks coming since they don't apply the brakes. At one time, the road was supposed to be restricted, and nobody does 30 mph any more. It was a terrible road at one time.

Bryan Nesteriak stated the speed limit is 30 mph, and they had placed counters on the road for four days, and the average speed for 85% of the traffic was 40 mph on this road. They had done the study on this road as far as commercial versus residential. Mr. Nesteriak stated they anticipate about a 30% increase in traffic based on the expansion. Currently about 35% of the traffic is commercial. The speed limit will not be changed.

Pat Bonvisuto, 85 Hawley Road, discussed the traffic in the early morning hours and that it sounds like it is coming right through her house. Once she gets about half way down her driveway, there is a hump in the road, and you cannot see if someone is coming down the road where the grade is for the bridal trail, and it is dangerous for her to get out of her driveway.

Bryan Nesteriak stated that all of the vertical and horizontal alignments need to be done according to the State and Federal guidelines, but he will take a look at it.

Jerry Bonvisuto, 85 Hawley Road, discussed that the power company had done work there a few years ago, and he assumes that the utility poles will be moved in more, or be moved across the street. There are two places that go into Wallenbrock, upper part and lower part by the triple driveway and they ran power under the street.

Bryan Nesteriak stated that almost all the utilities will be moved and relocated, including hydrants. When they start cutting some of the humps, we will look at these utilities.

Robert Werden, 110 Hawley Road asked about the guide wires that are 25 feet away from his house now, and had asked Eversource to move them, and that it would have cost \$10,000 to have them moved. He asked about the poles that go across Hawley and up to Morris Road and goes over to the corner of his property. He asked if he could meet with someone since he has a buffer from the road, and he does not want to lose any more of his property. Mr. Werden wanted to know how much of the slope you are going to take and what he will be losing. He also asked if the town is going to put more trees up, since his property does have trees now used as a blocker since he does live there. He stated the road does need to be redone.

Bryan Nesteriak stated that all of the slopes and easements need to be figured out and they will have to look at everything. Sloping and landscaping are the major things that will have to be dealt with.

Jerry Bonvisuto, 85 Hawley Road, asked if the town takes the land to do this project, he has buffers on his property which is below the bridal path; will the town be putting trees in to keep his buffer? Also he has 300 feet on the road, and will that change or impact his requirement for zoning?

Bryan Nesteriak stated that all of the areas and slope easements have to be surveyed, and then the Town Attorney or someone designated will have to go to each home owner and tell them what they want to do. The whole survey has not been done yet. A lot of properties have been widened thru subdivision.

Carol Mohyde, 133 Hawley Road, stated that the previous owner of her home stated there were speed bumps on that road at one time, and suggested maybe to return them back. She stated they are right about the truck traffic. Also between #136-140 Hawley Road, there used to be a small pond on the east side, which was diverted, and that pond does not get filled in like it used to. It never dried out like it does now. Would they be able to look into that? Most of the traffic is delivery trucks and tractor trailer trucks are hauling also.

Bryan Nesteriak stated they can look into speed bumps.

Kirt Smith, representing Airport Properties, asked about the drainage. Regarding property at #133 Hawley Road, what did you have in mind about the drainage; you have some drainage roughed in and is this the low point? Is the idea to pick up the drainage and come down to the west? What happens now with the existing part that goes south?

Bryan Nesteriak stated that the drainage will come to that low point. We will do a hydraulic analysis and if that ends up becoming an issue then we will look at it.

George Temple, 2 Jensen Farm Road, asked what the cost of the project will be. This will have to go to a Town Meeting and everyone will have an opportunity to talk about it there. When this is done, it will make quite an improvement on your property. When the town thought about this project, they did believe it would increase commercial traffic. The project will be a positive impact. \$800,000 is our biggest paving project, and we currently budget about \$1 million for roads and this will make that road safe for years to come. The town will have another opportunity to discuss this project.

Robbi Costigan stated it will cost a little over \$2 million. It will cost the town approximately \$800,000.

Jerry Bonvisuto, 85 Hawley Road, stated when they built Morris Road and took the drainage, and rather than connect it to the system, when it got to the bridal path it routed all the water to the bridal path and dumps into the swamp. He asked if they are considering rechanneling that water, since it does cause problems.

Bryan Nesteriak stated they will look at this, and stated anyone is welcome to call him and come in to discuss any concerns.

Jerry Bonvisuto, 85 Hawley Road, asked about the timeline for this project and getting grants?

First Selectman Temple stated that since we are dealing with the State, we have to see if monies will still be available. There are right of ways, utilities, and other items that need to be completed before applying for grants. Robbi Costigan stated the money is available but it will take approximately three years by the time everything is done prior to applying for the grants. Bryan Nesteriak thought if things go well it will be 1-1/2 years before any digging will be done.

First Selectman George Temple stated that there is a Board of Selectmen meeting that needs to begin, so if anyone has any more questions, Bryan Nesteriak will be available after the meeting for additional comments.

First Selectman George Temple moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Romanowski

Lynda Romanowski
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

16 AUG - 8 PM 5:51
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
George H. West
TOWN CLERK