

**Minutes of Meeting  
CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

September 8, 2009

The Selectmen's Meeting convened at 4:05 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Conway Town Hall with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin (Chair), C. David Weathers, Howard C. Dickinson, Bob Drinkhall, and Mike DiGregorio; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell.

Also in attendance was Paul DegliAngeli, Public Works Director; David Bernier, Superintendent of the North Conway Water Precinct; Bill Hounsell, CDM Consultant; Janice Crawford, Executive Director of the Mount Washington Chamber of Commerce; and approximately 30-35 members of the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Martin led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

The Board reviewed and signed various documents contained in the signature folder.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Board reviewed and signed the manifest dated June 10, 2009

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED KEARSARGE BIKE LANE GRANT APP

Mr. Sires reviewed the history of the matter up to this point with the Board and the public. Mr. Sires reviewed the Town needs to submit the application for funds by 9/15/09 and would need guidance by the Board of Selectmen today as to whether they wish to continue. Mr. Sires further explained that part of the application process is to get public input and this is why we are here today to see how the public feels about this matter.

Mr. Sires next gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the bike lane.

Mr. Sires next explained that we need a match of at least 20% for the grant. Mr. Sires further advised there is also a grant application being submitted with a local funding source for \$47, 000.

Mr. Sires next explained this would all also have to be placed on the town warrant for voter approval in 2010. The Warrant Article would explain where funds would be coming from – TE Funds, grant funding, etc. If there is insufficient grant funding and money needed to come from the town this would also show on the warrant article.

Mr. DegliAngeli next gave explanation of the cost for the project which is approximately \$300,000. Mr. DegliAngeli explained the bike lane needs to be a certain width and you need more gravel pavement, etc. There is also the need for traffic control and other costs that would have been shared as this is not being done entirely as a joint project now with the NCWP, which is what the Board of Selectmen had originally planned.

Chairman Martin opened the meeting up to Board questions and comments.

Mr. Weathers questioned if we are submitting this application next week and don't know if we have all the matching funds, what do we do then. Mr. Sires advised this will be explained on the application what we have to date and then advise we may have to put this to the voters next year.

Mr. DiGregorio questioned when the work on the bike lane would get done. Mr. Sires and Mr. DegliAngeli advised the construction would be done next summer or when we get the money supporting the project. Mr. DiGregorio, for clarification, further questioned that because of the timing aspect staff is looking for okay now to proceed and to get this on the warrant for next year. Mr. Sires reviewed that the application must be in by next Tuesday or we are out of the running for the TE funds. We could say on the application you are submitting the whole package to the voters and we won't know until next April if we are getting this.

Mr. Drinkhall questioned how much of this is in the Capital Reserve Fund and stated this is probably where the money would end up coming from. Mr. Sires reviewed the Board has chosen not to do this. The question about how far behind we are – it will be a net increase of \$300,000 to get us back to where we were before for the project.

Chairman Martin next called for public comments and questions.

Bill Crowley of North Conway advised he uses Kearsarge Road for biking, walking, and driving. He feels the road has always been used for a bypass and now that the North-South Road is here, more and more people are finding it (Kearsarge Road). Mr. Crowley further stated he feels that he also sees that we are not going to have a bypass and that Kearsarge Road has become the bypass. He feels the bike lane would be safer for families and would also be beneficial for tourism.

Steve Swenson advised he has lived on Kearsarge Road for many years and has seen walkers, runners, dog walkers, and motorists. Mr. Swenson stated you hear motorist complaining about walkers and vice versa and that this is the northern bypass. Mr. Swenson further added he feels there are a lot of reasons this bike path would be a plus and a win-win situation for everyone not just for residents of Kearsarge Road.

Public Works Director, Paul DegliAngeli, next reviewed road traffic statistics with the Board and public.

Bob Porter advised he lives in the Village of Kearsarge and that he walked the road once and that was enough. He worries about the safety on Kearsarge Road and is in favor of the bike lane.

Tony Federer stated he uses the road for recreation purposes and wants to see either a bike lane or a 4' wide shoulder. Mr. Federer advised he is pledging \$1,000 toward bike path.

Walter Jarofski echoed what other members of the public before him stated on safety issues. Mr. Jarofski stated he supports the bike lane or would like to see a sidewalk on Mechanic Street.

Bill O'Malley echoed safety concerns of other members of the public and added that he rides his bike elsewhere due to the safety issues.

Linda Stetson advised that she was hit by a car on a road without a bike lane. Ms. Stetson stated she is in support of the bike lane.

Janine Bean, Commissioner of the Conway Village Fire District (CVFD), cited safety issues and stated that if this Board can write a grant to make the village safer, she feels it is our responsibility to do this. Mr. Martin questioned if this was Ms. Bean's personal opinion or that of the CVFD. Ms. Bean stated both.

Terry O'Brien stated she is the Chair of the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce Cycling Committee. Ms. O'Brien advised the Chamber has realized biking is huge in this community and have set up this committee. Ms. O'Brien stated he is also a recreational user and supports the bike path. Ms. O'Brien next added that she is also the owner of the Red Parka and advised she will commit \$2,000 from the Red Parka Challenge and commit any additional fundraising money that will become available.

Jean Lee stated she is here on behalf of the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) and is also a parent. Ms. Lee cited the bike rack at John Fuller School only has a few bikes in the rack. Ms. Lee stated she feels this bike rack would be used more if a bike lane was in the area.

Al Hospers advised that he participates in many recreational activities. Mr. Hospers stated he thinks it is critical to have a bike lane. Mr. Hospers further added that any upgraded road should include lanes such as these. Mr. Hospers also added that he feels that this is not just a bike lane but a multi-use family lane.

Bob Barriault stated he supports the comments of Al Hospers. Mr. Barriault added that he himself is not a bike rider, but for safety sake he feels it is warranted, depending on where funding would come from.

Karen Umberger stated she supports everything said regarding the safety issues on Kearsarge Road. Ms. Umberger reviewed that she is a former member of the Board of Selectmen and that part of the plan was the bike lane was to be funded by the capital reserve plan. Ms. Umberger next advised that, unfortunately, the NCWP was a little late getting work done in the area and is disappointed the Board of Selectmen took this money out. Ms. Umberger expressed her displeasure at the Board removing the money and stated she feels this should now be taken out of the Capital Reserve Fund. Ms. Umberger further added that although she did not agree with the Board taking the money out she will still support what the Board of Selectmen are doing now by applying for TE funds because of the safety issues.

Glenn Ashworth of the Mount Washington Valley Velo Club talked about safety issues on the road and also talked about this lane is not just a bike lane it is for walking, biking, etc

Larry Garland of the Mount Washington Valley Bike Path Committee discussed public safety connects the community and that it recognizes the needs of all and he supports the bike lane.

David Bernier, Superintendent of the North Conway Water Precinct, stated that a multi-modal lane will help the road last longer and it also provides a safer road for everyone.

Bill Hounsell, CDM Consultant, stated he feels the town should go to the North Country Council and talk to the Executive Board about the application.

Keith Osmun stated he felt the bike lane was a want and not a need.

Chairman Martin closed the public hearing at 5:05 p.m.

Chairman Martin stated that this Board was in no way against this multi use lane but when compiling this past budget were faced with budget issues and this was cut from the budget. Selectman Drinkhall further explained that the Board came up with a budget lower than last year and did this by making painful cuts. Mr. Drinkhall further reviewed that he lives on Kearsarge Road and stated he feels this lane is a want and not a need as it pertains to the budget. Mr. Drinkhall further reviewed a safety report was received from the Police Chief a few weeks ago and the road is not a safety issue – although this is not to say something couldn't happen. Mr. Drinkhall went on to state we have a garage that needs to be replaced and we have roads that need to be replaced that we have put off this year. Mr. Drinkhall went on to state the decision to put off the bike lane this year was purely a financial reason and if it had been a different year things would have been different.

The Board next discussed a warrant article, how to present information on the application, the funds to be raised, etc. **Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Drinkhall, to instruct staff to pursue the grant with the funds they have now and place a warrant article if the grant is granted.** There was further brief discussion. Mr. Sires reviewed the town is also pursuing other grants for the lane. Mr. Dickinson questioned if this would be included on the TE application. Mr. Sires advised if this motion passes he will add language explaining this information. Mr. Dickinson stated he thinks this information should be included in the application. Jim LeFebvre questioned if we go over the 20% number do you get additional credit. Mr. Sires explained you get extra points if you are over 20%. **Mr. Dickinson offered the following amendment to the motion: Amend motion to dip into the Capital Reserve Fund for \$40,000 for the purpose of the local match.** There was a discussion. **There was no second to the amendment and the amendment failed.** After further brief discussion, **Mr. Drinkhall moved the questioned, seconded by Mr. DiGregorio. The motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary