



Walkway Committee Minutes

2021 April 15
Town Hall

Approved as prepared
at 2021 Apr 29
meeting

Present:

Lauren Brophy, Public Member
Sue Buchanan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector [TC/TC]
George Chauncey, Public Member
Donna Etela, Heritage Commission [HC]
Kathleen Kilgore, Library Trustee
Jim Maggiore, Select Board [SB]
Dasha Piotrowski, Public Member
Cynthia Swank (via Zoom), Heritage Commission [HC]

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm by Etela.

Election

Jim Maggiore nominated Donna Etela as Chair, George Chauncey seconded.
Donna Etela nominated Cynthia Swank as Minutes Clerk, Sue Buchanan seconded.
By roll call, each were approved.

Plan and Cost

Etela showed a postcard image of the original Library and its oval driveway, c. 1915. She then distributed a plan of the walkway for brainstorming and discussion purposes.

It shows a new walkway from the existing walkway by the handicap ramp to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's [TC/TC] building that runs along the edge of the parking lot and to the west of the trees on the west side of the TC/TC building.

That new walkway would meet an oval walkway at the end of the parking slots near the entrance to the parking area. The oval walkway would pass in front of the TC/TC building and end on the east of the building past the signboard and roughly midway between Atlantic Avenue and the Fire Station.

The plan shows the two walkways as 4 feet and 5 feet 8 inches wide respectively. Etela stated that the walkways as she envisions would match the existing walkways in composition.

The plan also shows a total of four additional parking spaces, two on the west side and two on the east side of the TC/TC building near the street. Both incurred reactions. Initial

thoughts included flattening the oval so that it ended at perhaps the third or fourth parking slot on the plan rather than being right by the street.

Buchanan does not expect any flack, as the handicap ramp and entry is in the back.

The new parking spaces on the east side of the building raised some concern. Etela thought one additional parking space might be more appropriate. It was suggested that Police and Fire should comment on the plan and the spaces. Kilgore noted that the truck traffic uses that driveway to go around the Fire and Police Departments to access the storage tank by the former railroad tracks. Maggiore said there is no easement, only a handshake agreement; otherwise the trucks would be using an easement taking them in front of Joe's Meat Shoppe which seems even more unsafe.

Based upon the cost of the walkway constructed between the existing Library and stone building a few years ago, Etela estimates that these new walkways will cost about \$14,000. Buchanan wondered what John Hubbard, Department of Public Works [DPW] director, thought of the current walkway behind the TC/TC building.

Others mentioned that the DPW would need to clear snow from these additional walkways as well as the ones for the new Library. They now just shovel the town campus walks. Etela reported that when a similar point was mentioned at this morning's Heritage Commission meeting, a member offered to give the Town a snowblower. Buchanan wondered how well they are holding up and the impact of a plow or snowblower. Chauncey thought, with the addition of the new Library's walkways, the Town may need to request a sidewalk plow for the Department.

Etela urged everyone to think about the plan, share it with others and get peoples' opinions, and that the Committee would meet again in two weeks.

Timeline. Etela asked when the Library trustees expected the work to comply with the NH DOT permit requirement might get underway. Kilgore indicated the contractor is to put in a timeline for site work and some work may start as early as next week. She also will get the specs and verify where the Library will be doing work on loaming and seeding. Etela hoped the same contractors might be used by the Town for the walkway work and the effort could be coordinated.

Maggiore thought a follow-up conversation with NH DOT was needed to make sure that the walkway did not affect adversely the NH DOT permit. Kilgore would like to speak with Bonnette Page & Stone [BPS] and with Library trustee Brandt first and asked that Maggiore wait until tomorrow afternoon. It was understood that the Town's DPW could do the prep work but the actual walkway would require a contractor. Kilgore noted that the Library's walkways are asphalt, not stone, and that its contractor only does asphalt. She suggested contacting Delores Chase about pavers.

A brief conversation about a portion of the stone wall on the other side of the driveway that, *vis a vis* the NH DOT permit, may need be moved. As it is an historic and boundary

wall, subject to state statutes, the Heritage Commission is an interested party in ensuring that any plan and its execution by the Library contractors is appropriate.

Fund-raising. Fund-raising may be required and Etela suggested when committee members ask people their opinions, to note any who express an interest in helping pay for the effort. To Brophy's query, Etela indicated no money should actually be collected at this stage. Another possibility is that if money remains at the end of the fiscal year and the Town has a contract in place, money might be encumbered for this effort.

Kilgore indicated that the selling of bricks at the Bandstand was a successful endeavor and that there was a local supplier. Cost was \$20/brick. Swank mentioned obtaining input and support from veterans as the war monument in front of the TC/TC building is the site of the Town's Memorial Day commemoration. Kilgore will ask Joe Kutt.

Next meeting. Thursday, April 29 at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned. 7:02pm

Cynthia G. Swank
Minutes Clerk