

Town of Pomfret
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Minutes of the September 13, 2017

Pomfret Road Scoping Study – Local Concerns Meeting

Present: Peter Holden (Holden Engineering), Jonathan Williams (Assistant to the Selectboard), Scott Woodward, (Selectboard Member), Emily Grube (Selectboard Member and Adjacent Property Owner), Frank Perron (Selectboard Member), Ellen DesMeules (Treasurer), Becky Fielder (Town Clerk), John Moore (Planning Commission), Edmund Kellogg (Adjacent Property Owner)

Pomfret Road Study Local Concerns Meeting: There were representatives at the Local Concerns meeting from Holden Engineering & Surveying (*HOLDEN*), Pomfret Town Hall Committee, adjacent property owners, Selectboard, as well as the Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer.

This local concerns meeting was an opportunity for *HOLDEN* to present an overview of the scoping study initiative for Pomfret Road between the Town Office and Town Hall. During the meeting Peter Holden answered questions, and listened to any concerns that Town officials and community members had regarding the project.

Peter Holden began the discussion by summarizing the Town's desire to fix and improve the safety for pedestrians crossing between the Town Office and Town Hall. He explained that a scoping study is needed to determine exactly what infrastructure is necessary at this municipal complex, the costs involved, and to identify such a project's potential impact on the surrounding environment.

Peter Holden pointed out that currently there is no outdoor lighting at the complex and the building structures are not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. He also pointed out that there is no crosswalk, traffic calming equipment, or traffic calming infrastructure in place.

Peter Holden presented an annotated map of the project area to point out how the proposed improvements will provide functional access which can include ADA compliance to visitors. He added that the scoping study will provide recommendations for improvements that will create safe crossing zones that alert travelers passing through the area to recognize that there are multiple modes of travel interacting with one another. The study will prioritize the steps needed to meet the Town's needs for pedestrian safety and infrastructure improvements without taking away from the already present scenic area. Peter emphasized that the high sensitivity to property frontages, with a mindset to minimize impacts and preserve as many existing features (such as landscaping & mature trees) as possible. Additionally, he reinforced that stormwater runoff will be evaluated to ensure that drainage from the project is properly routed to avoid adverse effects.

Peter Holden also discussed how the site distance from the Town Office driveway is limited, particularly to the south which creates a situation where pedestrians are relying on motorists from the south to see them and slow down or stop in a less than optimal distance. In addition to a crosswalk, Peter explained why pedestrian signals placed well in advance of the project area, pavement markings, and traffic calming techniques may be warranted here to enhance driver awareness of traffic entering/exiting the project site, as well as pedestrians. The scoping study recommendations will evaluate traffic movements, patterns, and sight lines in this area.

Peter discussed how proposed crosswalk positioning, width, surface treatment, and signage will be evaluated for the proposed crosswalk location. He added that supporting pavement markings, signage, and other alternatives should be considered to better alert drivers and enhance driver awareness of pedestrians, bicycles, and entering/exiting traffic from the Town office and Town Hall.

Peter Holden reinforced that the scoping study recommendations will try to utilize current utility locations to meet the Town's request for making recommendations regarding the installation of lighting for the project area.

Additional issues discussed with the attendees will be addressed in progress updates during development of the scoping study.