

New Paltz Community Advisory Committee
Carmine Liberta Bridge Replacement
Meeting Summary
1:00 PM June 16, 2015
Conference Center at BOCES 175
Route 32 North, New Paltz New Paltz

In Attendance: Gail Gallerie, William Weinstein, Richard Gottlieb, Allan Stout, Mayor Tim Rogers, Ed Pine, Brian Cunningham, Kenneth Wishnick, Dennis Doyle

Also: Fran Wishnick, Mike Townsend, Marianne Ananew

Introductions

Mr. Doyle called the meeting to order at 1:14 pm and opted to dispense with the introductions.

Mr. Stout stated he felt that county facilities should have bicycle racks, particularly this large building. Mr. Doyle stated that this building was an educational facility for New York State, not a county facility. Mr. Doyle added that the County is about 70-85% complete on the new educational facility at the former Sophie Finn school in Kingston, which has bike racks at the front and rear of the building. He also mentioned the new charging station at the county office building.

Consensus on the Meeting Summary

The Committee members were all favorable to the May summary.

Bridge Type Choices

Mr. Doyle stated that he believed we had this narrowed down to one type of bridge, the Cambridge Arch, and were deciding on the finish - whether to have painted, weathered steel or galvanized. Mr. Stout and Mr. Gottlieb both stated that the painted finish had been eliminated at a previous meeting. Mr. Doyle agreed.

Mr. Doyle had a slide presentation showing bridges with galvanized and weathered steel finishes and different types of handrails.

Ms. Gallerie stated the discussion at one of the last meetings was that the conditions were not good for the weathered finish on the bridge. Mr. Pine answered that issue has to do with the floor system, which will be galvanized.

Mr. Weinstein asked about removing painted graffiti from the weathered surface. Mr. Gottlieb answered that it was very easy to remove, but the finish would have to re-rust. Mr. Doyle added the current bridge seems to have more of an issue with graffiti on the abutments.

Railing Systems

Mr. Doyle showed slides with styles of railing. Mr. Pine described the rail in one slide as a straight tubular rail system. Mr. Gottlieb commented this style would make it easier for plowing. Mr. Doyle stated there would be options for the finish of the handrail including: painted, galvanized or weathered steel. Mr. Gottlieb suggested using galvanized rails for contrast.

Lighting

Mr. Doyle stated we have done some research on recessed handrail lighting.

- The first example, using LED was more decorative than functional.
- The second example would be mounted directly under hand rails, which lights the side and shoulders of the road. We would use asymmetric light pattern for this type.
- There was another type where the light is tucked up under handrail.
- Spotlights in rails –plug-in LEDs – drill hole in rail system and run through – Mr. Doyle added they look like they'd work well with a box guiderail system.
- Also a lighted rail system where the whole rail is lit called Luxrail. This lighting fixture fits right in the bottom of the rail, is ADA compliant, made of stainless steel with lighting in it.

Mr. Doyle stated that every type, except the first mentioned, were more functional than decorative. Ms. Gallerie stated that one advantage of lighting is a deterrent to activity under bridge. Mr. Doyle stated that we can keep the utility (pole) light on the end of the bridge.

Mr. Wishnick stated that the purpose of lighting should be determined prior to voting on which type to choose. Lighting under the rails is more oriented toward pedestrians walking across the bridge. The bridge itself would become a destination. If we are providing lighting for safety reasons—do we want lighting for decorative reasons. Do we want additional lighting to attract people to bridge after dark?

Mr. Gottlieb stated we do not need to be concerned with creating an attraction. We don't want to distract drivers, but if we want it to be safe there should be illumination.

Ms. Gallerie affirmed that we are more concerned with safety than decoration.

Mr. Doyle added that these lights will be more than decorative and meet the necessary regulations.

Mr. Gottlieb asked if there were a way to light the bridge safely without obscuring the stars, such as the inset lighting discussed.

Mr. Doyle stated that another argument for handrail lighting vs. pendant lighting is we can make area lighting "dark sky compliant," but if you are on the bridge and look up you'll see lights. With the handrail lighting you will look up and see the stars.

Mr. Weinstein stated he did not believe there was a cross purpose here. He stated he preferred minimal lighting so as to not interfere with night sky. He added that people being out at night extends the walking community.

Mr. Wishnick stated if we want people out we should make it look nice.

Ms. Gallerie asked if there was any significant difference in these options concerning energy consumption or maintenance. Mr. Doyle answered that all are LED lamps; wattage would make a difference, but the closer you move light toward where it is needed, the less area you need to light, which means using less energy. He added that these fixtures do not use a lot of power.

Ms. Gallerie asked who is responsible for the electric bills and bulb changes. Mr. Doyle answered the community will be responsible. Mr. Cunningham added that the bulbs last for 10 years or more.

Mayor Rogers asked if this bridge was in the Town of Village. Mr. Pine stated this may be entirely within the Village. Mr. Doyle stated he will check the boundary line. He added that we envision this will become part of a lighting district. He added that LEDs are the easiest to maintain and last 50,000-70,000 hours, and handrail fixtures are easier to maintain than light fixtures "up in the air." Mr. Wishnick asked about vandalism. Mr. Doyle answered these fixtures are bulletproof.

**Mr. Doyle asked for a consensus of the committee for using lower (handrail) lighting.
The committee was in favor.**

Ms. Gallerie asked if we had consensus for functional over decorative lighting. Mr. Doyle stated the county prefers functional. Mr. Gottlieb asked about light distribution for box or round style rails. Mr. Doyle answered that we can adjust how the light spreads on either type of lighting.

Mayor Rogers asked if the municipalities need to figure out who ends up paying for this. Mr. Doyle stated that is a detail that we need to figure out. Ulster County would want to know if it should include lighting in the budget, if not we would just run conduit on the bridge.

Mr. Weinstein stated he likes recessed lighting as it is minimalist. He added that the New Paltz Community Improvement Team might want the pendant lighting. He added that he would like some lighting underneath the bridge if it were done artfully. Mr. Doyle stated he would like to get Chief Snyder's opinion. Mr. Stout added that lighting underneath the bridge wouldn't be seen from Route 299, but you would see the lights from Huguenot. Mr. Doyle stated that putting lighting under the bridge could be a big maintenance issue. Mayor Rogers stated he wants no additional maintenance issues! Mr. Doyle stated that we can keep the lighting on the bridge and try to see how to get some of that light under it.

Ms. Gallerie asked for the timeframe for the community to make decisions about lighting. Mr. Doyle answered that we'd like a decision soon in order to include numbers in the budget. He added that we have some rough numbers in the budget, but if the community opted to not have lighting we could take them out. Ms. Gallerie wanted to confirm that there would be adequate time for the Town to decide.

Mr. Pine stated that the type of railing on the sidewalk is the bigger decision. The linear type rail gives more options. He added that we could use 1.5 to 2 inch rails with a larger handrail on top. Mr. Doyle stated it seems like horizontal rail would be a good choice. Mr. Pine added that we'd use the smallest size. Mr. Doyle stated the responsibility for painting the handrail would fall to Ulster County. We could use weathered for most of it with a painted handrail. If a painted handrail is chosen we'd use Federal colors of paint.

There was some concern over using galvanized railings because if holes were needed to be drilled or other modifications they would take the galvanized finish off the metal. Mr. Pine stated the railing comes ready to go – just bolt it on. Mr. Weinstein stated he would like a weathered steel finish rail with a painted handrail (galvanized if possible.) Mr. Gottlieb said he thinks the weathered finish lasts longer and asked if it saves money over the galvanized and also if it was stronger. Mr. Pine answered that weathered has a higher tensile strength.

Mr. Doyle stated that we owe details on railing and how it can be done.

Other items

Mr. Doyle stated we will leave money in the budget for the historic abutments and see if they need repointing.

Mr. Doyle showed a slide of a pipe under the bridge and stated that we don't know where it goes, but it is labelled on the old plans as a sewer pipe. Mr. Pine added that we don't know where the pipe comes from or goes to. Mayor Rogers suggested asking the Village DPW. Mr. Wishnick suggested asking the DEC.

Mr. Weinstein asked if the tree growing through the abutment was staying. Mr. Doyle answered that it was not. Mayor Rogers asked Mr. Doyle to e-mail him the picture and he'd talk to the DPW.

Mr. Doyle stated that the utility pole looking west, located in the spot where the temporary bridge is going, will be relocated to other side. Mr. Doyle stated that we need to have a conversation with Central Hudson about not having the lines in the view.

Mr. Doyle stated that some mature trees will come down in the area of the temporary bridge. We have talked to the owner of Gilded Otter and he is okay with the trees coming down. Mr. Doyle added that we will stabilize the bank and either plant or grade it when the temporary abutments come out. Ms. Gallerie asked if there was a photo of the trees to be affected. Mr. Doyle showed a slide with the trees.

Ms. Gallerie asked if there were any further discussions with Chief Snyder about where the temporary bridge route will cut into the Main Street/ Gilded Otter property? Mr. Doyle stated we have not had another discussion with Chief Snyder since the last meeting about restricting left hand turns. We've had discussions with the owner (Rick Rausch?) of the Gilded Otter for a left-turn restriction, if needed, from Huguenot Street and that we may take a portion of sidewalk. Mayor Rogers asked if the sidewalk would be replaced. Mr. Doyle answered that it would.

Mr. Doyle stated the sign on the other side of the bridge has to come down (bracket with multiple signs – church, rotary, etc). It would be a community decision to put it back, and if so, it might need a permit from highway department as it is in a County right-of-way. Ms. Gallerie asked Mr. Doyle to e-mail her that picture.

Update on Utility Relocation

Mr. Doyle stated that he met with the Mayor yesterday regarding utility issues. The water line relocation discussion will need to be continued as there are many different ways to accomplish this and we'd like it to have the least amount of difficulty to the water department. Mr. Doyle stated that the responsibility of moving the line lies with municipality. Timing of the water line removal will need to be done in accordance with the bridge schedule. The County would take the responsibility of moving the line by using a betterment agreement with the Village. Mr. Doyle stated that an alternative to putting the waterline on the temporary bridge during construction would be to use a flexible pipe that runs through the water and out the other side, which has worked in Wallkill, and would be less expense than relocation, but not permanent.

Mayor Rogers stated they looked over the many options and may have solution that (hopefully) will work.

Mr. Doyle stated it would be nice if the water line did not have to go back on the bridge, but if it does we would use a different kind of pipe that would look better.

SEQRA Unlisted

Mr. Doyle stated we believe this will be an Unlisted action, and may need DEC permits for abutments for the temporary bridge (at the least). The County will do an Expanded Environmental Assessment Form (leading to a Negative Declaration). The focus will be the temporary bridge, structures needed and the overlook area, which will be permanent change.

Budget

Mr. Doyle stated that at the initial meeting, County Executive Hein estimated the project's cost between \$1.8-2.5 million. We are close to the high end of that estimate, but can do it if Ulster County does the work. If the work gets bid out, we will be over budget. Mr. Doyle added it is an enormous amount of savings to the taxpayers to have the county bridge crew do the work.

Ms. Gallerie asked when we would know which way the County would like to go and the primary considerations in that decision. Mr. Doyle stated there are more internal discussions to have. Anything of this nature will need to be in the capital budget in front of Legislature. We need more work done internally before going to the Legislature. If we need to bid out we will need to do some design work first. Ms. Gallerie stated that bidding

adds to the time frame. Mr. Cunningham stated about 3 to 4 months. Ms. Gallerie asked if we could keep the schedule we first talked about. Mr. Doyle answered that is a decision we make internally. Mr. Doyle stated that we do have budget for the overlook and lighting that will preserve those things discussed with the committee. Ms. Gallerie asked that if we go more the more expensive route those are items are subject to elimination. Mr. Doyle answered with respect to Capital Projects everything is up for discussion.

Mayor Rogers stated that he reached out to find out how much money the village paid for light. He asked if we could get an estimate of Kilowatt-hours.

Mr. Weinstein asked why bid out when it is cheaper to do in house. Mr. Cunningham answered that the size of the project takes resources away from the typical work schedule so it depends on how many resources are available.

Mr. Gottlieb stated that the overlook may seem to be an indulgence, but with the loss of trees and stabilization work after temporary bridge is removed this could be a perk. Mr. Doyle stated that because the temporary abutments will be in on that side – as we dismantle the bridge and remove from the other side, we could put together and get up to grade to create platform. Then put surface pavers on with safety railing and lighting. Mr. Doyle stated he has asked Mohonk Preserve for some Shawangunk conglomerate to use as a portion of the safety railing. Mr. Gottlieb stated we could ask the business community for benches and stone. Mayor Rogers asked who owns the property. Mr. Pine stated it belongs to Ulster County. Mayor Rogers was concerned about maintenance and adding additional workload on the Village Department of Public Works.

Next Steps

Mr. Doyle stated that we need to:

- Detailed design work
- Finalize lighting choices - (Bring in Community Improvement Team?)
- Finalize budget for Capital Program & Project
- Finalize necessary agreements for waterline, lighting & overlook

Ms. Gallerie stated she thought the Community Improvement Team would be at this meeting. The type of lighting they were talking about was different from what we are discussing. Mr. Doyle offered to meet with them

Next meeting

Mr. Doyle stated that we are finished with the main topics. We should take summer off and come back in late August or early September.

We will bring:

- Bridge drawings
- Finalized budget
- Lead Agency determination & begin the SEQRA work
- Lighting (final)
- Weathered steel rail with painted hand rail (will have detail)

Mr. Doyle stated when it is time to establish the Capital Project at the county level we will have the committee's support. Please attend the Public Works committee or come to the Legislature meeting to support the Capital Project. Mr. Doyle added that working with this committee has been a pleasure.

Carmine Liberta Bridge – Citizens Advisory Committee
June 16, 2015

Ms. Gallerie wanted to state for the record the committee's thanks to DD, MPH others at the County for not hesitating to provide temporary bridge, holding convenient meetings, the openness for which the meetings were held. She added that everyone felt welcome and engaged.

Meeting ended at 2:31pm