

ROUTE 28 COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING
MARCH 10, 2019, 1:30PM
MORSE POND SCHOOL
323 Jones Rd., Falmouth, Ma. 02540

Attending: Alison Leschen, Ben Harden, Rachel Howard, Jim Marshall, John Silvia, Mary Barry, Gregg Berkley, Charlotte Harris, David Vieira, and the citizens of Falmouth.

Chair Alison Leschen presented the overview of the committee's scope and approach. She introduced the committee members. At least one more meeting was announced for 03.14.19 at the Town Hall Old Water Room at 7PM. The final recommendation from the committee is due mid-April.

Ms. Leschen and Representative Vieira presented a synopsis of the Complete Streets briefing.

Representative Vieira then took the public through each section of the planned changes.

Public Comments/Questions:

Will utility poles be removed? Not easily. There were few to no issues on the south side. The north side may need to be narrowed in spots to accommodate poles, but the engineers are still discussing the best plan. There are approximately 48 utility poles that may pose issues.

Can we bring the elm trees back? The committee did recommend elm trees and plantings that would be salt-resistant and hardy.

Community input should have been a part of this process from the beginning and should be a part henceforth. Agreed.

What types of plantings will there be? Shrubs, trees, grasses--all hardy and salt-resistant. How the residences and pathway intersect will determine what goes where (closer to the sidewalk may necessitate a screening type of greenery). Residents are welcome to give input.

Can we just do one side of the road and can the plantings be large? Having the multi-modal path on only one side forced too many unsafe crossings on a busy road and would be hazardous for drivers trying to look out for pedestrians/bicyclists in the middle of the road. The plantings will be appropriate and help beautify the area.

Will business signs need to be moved? Most signs appear to be fine. You can ask DPW specifically.

Who will take care of the paths? DPW is currently responsible. They are hoping to renegotiate with the state to get the state to take care of them.

Can we decrease the speed limit? Theoretically the greenery will help naturally slow traffic. We would need a state traffic audit to get a decreased speed limit, and historically those have actually raised the speed limit.

May we have speed tables? No.

Please clarify the engineering lines on the layout. Clarified.

Can we add in planted medians to separate the lanes? No. That would cause the pathway to go deeper into the state remit, and that would further affect residents.

Can we relocate 18 wheeler traffic? This can be a continuing conversation but was not in the purview of the committee.

Will there be a roundabout at Sandwich Road? No.

Will additional turn lanes be added at Maravista Extension? No. Not as part of this project. Better pedestrian curb cuts will be added.

The King Phillip historical area is a busy industrial section and should be noted.

The path should be continued both to downtown and to the Coonamessett River Greenway.

What does the end of the current projected path look like? The committee does not currently have that answer.

What materials will be used? Granite for the curbs. Asphalt for the path itself.

The public was then invited to meet with the committee and place comments on a copy of the paper layout. Those comments will be compiled by the engineers and brought to the next meeting for discussion.

Next committee meeting: March 14, 2019, at 7pm at Town Hall in the Old Water Room.