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Minutes 02-20-2008

MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 20, 2008

Members Present: Barbara Cutler, Susan James, Barbara Jones, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Lin Baker, Janice Dallas, Kerrie Fallon, Kevin O'Brien

Others Present: Michael Rademacher, Town Engineer
Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator
Joey Glushko, Planner
Paolo Marinelli, Disability Advocate

Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2008:

The Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2008 were tabled until the February 20, 2008 Meeting.

Improvements to Forest Street:

Michael Rademacher, Town Engineer, said that the Town wants to reconstruct a section of Forest Street from Summer Street to the Winchester line that is in deplorable condition. Michael said that the Town's goal is to improve the roadway surface and install a sidewalk that would be unobstructed by vehicles. To install a sidewalk on both sides of the Street that would conform to accessibility guidelines would be nearly impossible because of the steep slope of some of the driveways in this area. Michael said that where feasible sidewalks will be installed on both sides of the Street. Michael is proposing that a continuous sidewalk be installed on the left side of the Street as you drive towards Winchester from Arlington. This side of the street has two buss stops and would provide easier compliance with sidewalk regulations.

Michael said that John Bean, Director of Public Works, has requested him to complete a survey of curb cut ramps within the Town. Michael said that the survey would be completed with a few weeks. Linking the survey results to the Town's GIS system will take longer to complete. This survey will be used to determine a cost to install curb cut ramps at every intersection within the Town. The result will be included in the Town's Capital Plan.

Michael said that work on the Mass. Ave. Corridor Project is temporarily being held up until the State passes their transportation bond bill. Passage of this bill is expected to happen soon. This project will result in sidewalk and street improvements from the Cambridge Line to Spy Pond Lane.

Open Space Plan:

Joey Glushko said that the Disability Commission would need to participate in developing the Town's Open Space Plan. Joey said that a part of the plan would require a survey of accessibility at the Town's outdoor recreation areas.

CDBG:

Jack Jones said that the Town will receive approximately 1.3 million dollars in CDBG funding for FY 2009. Jack Jones said that of the \$75,000 that was available this fiscal year \$41,410 has been expended to install ten curb cut ramps along Broadway & Warren Street. The remaining \$33,590 will be expended before the end of this fiscal year. Barbara Cutler recommended that the Commission should submit two requests. The first request would be for \$25,000 to hire a consultant to work on the Town's Open Space Plan, and the second request would be for \$150,000 to continue the Commission's Curb Cut Ramp Project. The Commission Members agreed with this recommendation.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals:

Barbara Jones said that Paolo Marinelli and herself surveyed the Summer Street APS's on February 17th and found that the signal at Brattle Street was completely turned off. Barbara said that the APS in the northeast corner of Summer Street and Park Ave. Ext. that was most damaged by vandals is not working. Barbara Jones said that the APS at Forest Street is working properly.

Annual Report:

Jack Jones said that Annual Report has been submitted. Jack recognized Barbara Cutler and Kerrie Fallon for editing the report and recommendations made towards it's final submission.

Other Business:

Jack Jones said that letter was sent to the Redevelopment Board and another letter sent to Chris Loreti, a member of the Redevelopment Board, regarding the use of smother surfaces on sidewalks instead of bricks.

A letter regarding snow and ice removal that has been prepared for mailing to all Arlington households by Maureen St. Hilaire was reviewed at the meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.