

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CAPITAL PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015 AT 5:30 PM
LINCOLN HALL MEETING ROOM
AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Agenda changes/additions
3. Agenda approval
4. Public comments
5. Hillcrest Drainage Project
6. Review and approve minutes of previous meetings 12/2/14 & 2/3/15

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CAPITAL PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 7, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrew Brown (Chairman); Rick Hamlin, David Nistico.
ADMINISTRATION: Lauren Morrissette, Finance Director & Assistant Village Manager.
OTHERS PRESENT: Marla Durham, Robert Durham, Lindsay Willis, Erin Knox, John Knox, Gary Hebert, Kevin Collins, Tami Koester, Wendy Jenkins, Gracie Engel Peirce, Peg Reardon, Carmen Colley, Catherine Colley.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andrew Brown called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

2. AGENDA

Item #4 – Hillcrest Drainage Project was amended to read: “Hillcrest Sidewalk Project”.

MOTION by Andrew Brown, SECOND by Rick Hamlin, to approve the agenda as amended. VOTING: unanimous (3-0); motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At the request of the attendees an update of the drainage project on Hillcrest Road was provided as follows:

- The project is out to bid. Bid opening will be by the end of April.
- Once the Notice to Proceed is issued the contractor will begin work after the July 4th weekend.
- The contractor will grind down the existing pavement and do an overlay on the road at the completion of the drainage work if the bids are favorable.
- The purpose of the project is to disconnect existing drainage structures connected to the sanitary sewer system. A curtain drain will be installed across North Hillcrest to help with storm water drainage. Any drains in the public right-of-way will be replaced. Work outside the right-of-way is the responsibility of the homeowner. Existing connections will be maintained.
- Residents can provide their email addresses to receive daily updates on the drainage project from the engineer once the work has begun.

4. HILLCREST DRAINAGE (SIDEWALK) PROJECT

The charge of the Capital Program Committee and how projects are ranked was explained. The committee makes recommendations to the Municipal Manager and the Board of Trustees on the timeline of projects.

HILLCREST SIDEWALK PROJECT

The proposed project includes a 5’ wide sidewalk the length of Hillcrest Road to connect to sidewalk at Fleming School on Prospect Street. There will be a 3’ wide greenbelt

between the sidewalk and road for most of the route. Residential driveways will be rebuilt to match the sidewalk. Retaining walls will be built where required. Estimated cost of the project is more than \$400,000.

Andrew Brown confirmed receipt of emails and a video from residents in the Hillcrest neighborhood.

COMMENTS

Gracie Engel, 1 Hillcrest Road, spoke about the lack of safety for pedestrians, especially children walking to school, because there is no sidewalk and cars are exceeding safe speeds on the road. Children have to cut through yards for a safe route to the nearby schools. Ms. Engel observed it seems logical on streets leading to a school to have a sidewalk.

Marla and Robert Durham, 11 West Hillcrest Road, said West Hillcrest is not as busy as Hillcrest and does not need sidewalk. Hillcrest is very busy with traffic and people are speeding. Ms. Durham said she witnessed her son when he was little having to jump into a snowbank to avoid getting hit by a car. Rick Hamlin clarified sidewalk will be on Hillcrest only. The crossing will be on the dead-end leg of Prospect Street. The sidewalk must cross to the other side of Hillcrest at the top of the hill otherwise a significant retaining wall going downhill would have to be built. Ms. Durham asked if the road could simply be widened enough to accommodate a striped bike lane as an interim fix until there is enough money to install sidewalk. Rick Hamlin said there are grade issues on the road and a retaining wall would be required even for a bike lane. Curbing or some sort of separation between the bike lane and roadway would be needed otherwise people will drive vehicles and park in the bike lane.

Tami Koester, 11 Hillcrest Road, echoed the comments about the dangerous road for pedestrians, especially children walking to school, and especially when there are snowbanks in winter. It is safer for children to cut through yards than walk on the road.

Carmen Colley, 8 West Hillcrest Road, questioned why North and West Hillcrest are not included in the sidewalk project because the same safety concerns with pedestrians and cars exist on those roads. Ms. Colley said her nine year old daughter even says the road is dangerous. In winter the road is slippery and cars are traveling too fast, going right through the intersection with Prospect Street because there is no stop sign. Ms. Colley mentioned she has a hearing impaired child who cannot hear cars approaching on the narrow road. The area is not pedestrian friendly. Sidewalk will encourage people to walk. Andrew Brown explained the request for sidewalk on Hillcrest was received during the drainage project. The cost for sidewalk on West Hillcrest and North Hillcrest must be estimated and the project ranked to be included in the project list. Residents are also encouraged to contact the village Bike/Walk Committee and express their concerns and desire for sidewalk.

A gentleman in the audience spoke about the need for cars to slow down on the roads.

Erin Knox, 7 Hillcrest Road, stated the residents on Hillcrest have voiced their concerns. The village promotes the schools as a walking district, but Hillcrest Road is one of two streets leading to schools and does not have sidewalk, but does have speeding cars. The residents sought speed bumps eight years ago from the village. The request was denied. The residents assumed with the drainage work on the street the timing would be right to install a sidewalk.

Lindsey Willis, 9 Hillcrest Road, said her two children are worried and afraid to walk to school because of the dangerous conditions. Cars and pedestrians are so close to each other on the street that cars will splash water from puddles onto people. Sidewalks are the topic of discussion in the neighborhood.

Katherine Colley (nine year old), 8 West Hillcrest Road, described having to wait for cars to pass when walking to school and that she has almost been hit. Ms. Colley said the cars are going fast and she is worried about them coming so close, adding sidewalks would be nice and a lot nicer for children who do not have parents to walk to school with them.

Gabrielle Smith, Wellness Coordinator for CCSU, suggested mapping safe walking routes and having the Bike/Walk Committee take on the task.

The Capital Committee recommended the following:

- Residents are encouraged to contact the police for enforcement of the speed limit on the street.
- A request for speed tables can be made to the Trustees.
- Regarding a stop sign at the Prospect Street intersection, a stop sign must be warranted per the regulations in the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). An engineering study can be done to see if the warrants are met.
- There is a street placard through the MUTCD that can be posted for individuals with a handicap. Contact the village with the request.
- Sidewalk on North Hillcrest and West Hillcrest will be ranked once the project cost estimate is done.
- There is a 'safe routes to school' map showing crosswalks with crossing guards and safe routes to the schools. The Bike/Walk Committee can be of assistance. Contact Darby Mayville at the village offices.
- Regarding funding for the project, staff investigates all sources of funding (grants and such) for projects with a high ranking.
- Look for public hearing notices on projects in order to provide comment.

RANKING

Hillcrest Sidewalk Project (DDD): 59 points.

The committee noted the ranking is high enough to possibly shift other non-bonded projects in the list. Andrew Brown will confer with the Village President about putting the capital plan on a future Trustees meeting agenda for discussion. At the next Capital Program Committee meeting the committee will look at reorganizing the capital plan.

5. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

December 2, 2014 & February 3, 2015

MOTION by Rick Hamlin, SECOND by David Nistico, to approve the minutes of 12/2/14 and 2/3/15 as written. VOTING: unanimous (3-0); motion carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Andrew Brown, SECOND by David Nistico, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous (3-0); motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

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