



TOWN OF SWANSEY

620 OLD HOMESTEAD HIGHWAY

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Town of Swansey, New Hampshire

Christian Hill Bridge Advisory Committee Meeting

April 28, 2016

West Swansey Fire Station, 34 Main Street, Swansey, NH

Present were Committee Members Town Administrator Michael Branley, DPW Director Lee Dunham, Fire Chief Norm Skantze and Citizen Dan Lane.

Others present: Fred and Sharon Comstock

Chairman Dunham called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION: Lane moved to approve the March 26 minutes as drafted, seconded by Skantze. All in favor.

Dunham stated he had a short response from NH Trails Bureau. 20 foot aprons level to the road surface on either side and ramps that met ADA trail regulations would be required. Lane stated that would increase the amount of material and costs from the initial estimate he put together.

Branley stated he did not have anything to report from DOT. He reported that he and Dunham met with Mike Hansen from Hansen Bridge on Tuesday to see if he may be able to replace the bridge in a cost effective manner. Branley told Hansen not to put together a comprehensive estimate at this point since the future of the bridge is uncertain. Hansen estimates his lowest cost option could keep the current structure in place and use timber decking. Crash tested guardrails would be a challenge. Preliminary estimate for this option is \$178,000, without engineering or permitting.

Skantze stated he turned the right-of-way information from John Bridges over to Dunham. Dunham presented documentation that was provided by Bridges.

Lane stated currently school buses do not go up Christian Hill Road at all. It would be nice if school buses could go up there.

Lane stated he spoke to Contech about corrugated metal culverts. Materials for this option would be around \$150,000.

The committee discussed the various options. Branley noted Hansen could also do a full

replacement, however it would be more expensive than working with the existing structure. The committee discussed the process they think the project should take. Lane stated eventually the Committee would get to the point where they could not move forward without an engineer. Skantze stated based on Lane's statement he thought the Committee should ask the Selectmen for funding to try to hire an engineer. Fred Comstock stated he thought it was a stretch for the Committee to report back without the assistance of an engineer.

MOTION: Dunham moved that it is the sense of the Committee that Christian Hill Road Bridge needs to be reopened, that the Committee is primarily considering three options (timber, arch/culvert, and bringing the road back down to grade) and would like to identify an engineering firm to develop realistic cost estimates, seconded by Skantze. All in favor. The Committee directed Dunham to report this position to the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday.

The Committee agreed to next meet on 5/12 at 5:30 p.m. at the West Swanzey Fire.

MOTION: Branley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Skantze. All in favor.