



Patricia O'Neil <poneil@natickma.org>

Fwd: Article 16: Alteration of Layout of North Main Street

5 messages

James Errickson <jerrickson@natickma.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2019 at 10:20 AM

To: Amy Mistrot <amistrot@natickma.org>, Melissa Malone <mmalone@natickma.org>

Cc: Selectmen <selectmen@natickma.org>

Amy,

Meant to include you on this - regarding Article 16 on TM Warrant.

Jamie

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Errickson** <jerrickson@natickma.org>

Date: Tue, Mar 5, 2019 at 10:19 AM

Subject: Re: Article 16: Alteration of Layout of North Main Street

To: Melissa Malone <mmalone@natickma.org>

Cc: Patrick Hayes <phayes.fincom@natickma.org>, Bill Chenard, <chenard@natickma.org>, John Townsend <jtownsend@natickma.org>

Hi All,

Apologies for the delay - this has been an ongoing discussion with MassDOT to truly understand this "requirement" and timing with regards to the Route 27 N Main St project.

After much discussion with MassDOT and in review of the timing of the project vs Town Meeting, this is an item that can be "no action" or "refer to sponsor" this Town Meeting, though we will need to complete this in the Fall.

As background, at the time of the TM warrant closing (literally 2 days prior), MassDOT informed the Town of a new FHWA (Federal Highway) policy that "requires" the Town to complete the roadway alteration process prior to bidding a project (it used to be handled following bid or even following project completion). Once we learned of this new policy, staff rushed to get this warrant article on the TM warrant.

Since then, Town staff worked with MassDOT folks to further understand the actions the Town needs to take to comply with this policy, and came to the consensus with MassDOT that the roadway alteration process should actually wait until the Fall Town Meeting. For further background, an the roadway alteration process is really an administrative process to show/document on a single plan all of the proposed roadway (sidewalks, curbing at key intersections, etc) where people may "drive or walk". This includes existing layout, but also any permanent easements/land takings.

There are a few reasons it is not desired to do this process at this Town Meeting:

- 1) the project design is not complete - it will be soon, but we don't want to alter a roadway layout prior to the final design being accepted/approved by MassDOT for the project, which is not likely until after Spring TM (approval likely in May);
- 2) the Right of Way work is still ongoing and will be concluded after Town Meeting (BOS action scheduled for May/June) - similar to above, it is not appropriate to alter a layout of a road to include reference to easements and land that the Town has yet to property negotiate rights to.
- 3) MassDOT has gained further understanding as to the timing "requirement" of this policy and feels they can adjust the timing a bit more than originally anticipated. Rather than prior to bid, this must be completed prior to contract execution with a selected contractor, which is not likely to occur until next winter/spring.

This is a bit of a classic case of a Federal policy not coinciding with Town Meeting processes/timing in Mass.

I'm more than happy to answer any questions or provide additional background.

Jamie