

MEETING - Notes

NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT MEETING

**MARSTON AND WILLARD AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS
CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NH**

City Hall - Conference Room A
1 Junkins Ave. Portsmouth NH
February 19, 2015 at 6:30 PM

The following are meeting notes for the Marston Avenue and Willard Avenue project, as a continuation of the Contract 3C Sewer Separation project. The meeting was held at Conference Room A at Portsmouth City Hall. Terry Desmarais moderated the meeting and presented proposed roadway layouts, general details of the project, and facilitated public input.

Project Personnel

Representing

Peter Rice, P.E. (Director Public Works)	City of Portsmouth
Terry Desmarais, P.E. (City Engineer)	City of Portsmouth
Rick Dolce, P.E. (Engineering Project Manager)	City of Portsmouth
Phil MacDonald, P.E.	Underwood Engineers
Dan Rochette, P.E.	Underwood Engineers

Introductions

City staff members and the project design team were introduced. A sign-up sheet for public attendees was circulated and is included as Attachment "A".

Purpose of Meeting and Project Goals

The City hosted the public meeting to solicit local feedback and input from the residents within the project area. The primary project goals and basis of the proposed design concepts presented include the following:

- A. Review proposed layouts for Marston Avenue and Willard Avenue.
- B. Discuss pros and cons of the proposed layouts and gather resident's concerns and input.
- C. Gain consensus on a specific layout alternative so that the design can progress towards construction.

A general overview of construction coordination items and potential impacts was presented. Potential impacts such as driveway access, traffic interruptions and temporary impacts to utility service will be coordinated with area residents and businesses on a daily basis during construction. The contract documents will include provisions to address these items. Construction related issues will be discussed at a pre-construction informational meeting with the date and time yet to be determined. The balance of the meeting discussion was focused on

the proposed design concepts.

Lincoln Basin Sewer Separation History

The City is required by the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to minimize combined sewage overflows (CSO) through the City's Long Term Control Plan. A CSO is the discharge of combined sewage and stormwater into a water body during rainfall events where the combined collection system gets overwhelmed. In order to minimize these events, the City constructs separate pipes for drainage and sewer. The City has been performing these sewer separation projects for the 14 plus years. The benefit to these projects is a reduction in backups in the sewer collection system, localized flooding and overall roadway improvements. The City has seen a reduction in the CSO events as a result of the separation projects.

Reasons for Willard Avenue and Marston Avenue Construction

The primary purposed for this project is to provide an outlet for drainage from South Street. Providing an outlet for South Street will prevent the future roadway work in South Street from being compromised from inadequate drainage. In addition, sewer separation work will be performed along the entire route including South Street, Marston Avenue and Willard Avenue.

The work will be completed as an extension of the Lincoln Area Sewer Separation Contract 3C project which included Wibird Street at the intersection with Willard Avenue. Similar to the work completed in the Lincoln 3C project with the installation of new utilities, the City is including full roadway reconstruction, curbing and sidewalks in accordance with the City's typical roadway designs.

Proposed Layouts:

The proposed layouts were presented to residents at the meeting. The overall work included realigning the streets to have consistent widths, adding granite curbing to establish the gutter line and prolong the integrity of the roadway, repaving the roadways and driveway aprons and new sidewalks on Willard Avenue. The list below generally identifies the features reviewed with residents for each alternative. A copy of the layouts is attached.

A. Willard Avenue:

- a. Consistent street width 32'
- b. New utilities including sewer, water and drain
- c. New granite curbing
- d. New catch basins for stormwater collection
- e. New 5' wide concrete sidewalks
- f. Limited impact to trees

B. Marston Avenue - Alternative 1:

- a. Width near South St at 20' increasing to 22' for the majority of the roadway towards Willard Avenue
- b. New granite curbing
- c. New catch basins for stormwater collection
- d. Limited impact to existing trees

- e. Minimize impact to ledge near South Street
- C. Marston Avenue - Alternative 2:
 - a. Consistent roadway width of 20' from South Street to Willard Avenue.
 - b. New granite curbing
 - c. New catch basins for stormwater collection
 - d. Limited impact to existing trees
 - e. Minimize impact to ledge near South Street
- D. Marston Avenue - Alternative 2A:
 - a. Layout generally consistent with Alternative 2 but includes offset curbing to provide approximately 4 public parking spaces

Consensus on Proposed Layouts:

Based on the presentation and the residents in attendance at the meeting there were no exceptions taken to the proposed Willard Avenue roadway layout plan. Following discussion about the various aspects of the proposed Marston Avenue roadway layout plans, the residents generally agreed that the preferred option Marston Avenue - Alternative 1. Based on the discussion, this consensus was reached based on the following reasons:

- A. A 22' wide roadway would be easier to maneuver when backing out of driveways eliminating Marston Avenue - Alternative 2.
- B. Public parking spaces on the east side of Marston Avenue were not preferred eliminating Marston Avenue - Alternative 2A.

Although no options were presented that included sidewalks on Marston Avenue, the residents at the meeting indicated they do not want sidewalks on Marston Avenue.

Additional Questions and Answers

The following is a summary of questions and responses that were recorded during the public input and discussion:

- Q: What if we don't know where our sewer service is located?
- A: *The Engineer and/or Contractor will be requesting entrance into residents' homes to locate your sewer and water services.*

- Q: What should a homeowner do if they want to replace the portion of the existing sewer or water service from the property line to the house? Will they have to pay for it?
- A: *Homeowners should contact a local site contractor for estimates to complete this work. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay for this installation. The timing of this work should be coordinated with City staff or onsite personnel, and can be done during or after construction.*

Q: If the water service is steel or galvanized should this be treated any differently?

A: *Existing steel or galvanized water service lines have been historically problematic when connecting new service lines. The homeowner should notify the City in advance of the work to discuss options.*

Q: If a resident is looking to upgrade to natural gas heating fuel, should this be coordinated during construction?

A: *Residents contemplating upgrading to natural Gas Service or any type of construction within the City streets should do it soon, as the City will institute a 4 year (moratorium) on cutting new final course of pavement.*

Q: How do we get a sump pump connection?

A: *Sump Pump connections can be coordinated through Rick Dolce, P.E., Engineering Project Manager or Dan Rochette, P.E., Project Engineer with Underwood Engineers. Connections to can be made after construction is complete, as opposed to during construction. Residents can also connect down spouts to the 6" drainage pipe left by the City during construction. Sump pump connections to the sewer do not comply with the City's sewer use ordinance and need to be redirected.*

Q: Will residents be contact before blasting?

A: *Residents will be contacted to perform a Pre-Blast Survey of their house. Having the survey completed is not required, but is in the best interest off the homeowner since it provides the condition of the house before any blasting or construction. When blasting occurs, it's monitored with vibration equipment and must meet certain NH DOT vibration limits.*

Q: What if residents have concerns with tree impacts?

A: *Impacts to trees can be reviewed by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Trees & Greenery. Based on the proposed roadway layouts, one tree is anticipated for removal on Willard Avenue. Some trees will have impact to roots, but are not anticipated to be removed. The Trees & Greenery Committee will make the final decision.*

Q: How do residents stay informed as to project information and location?

A: *The City uses the project webpage (www.portsmouthwastewater.com) and email to communicate project updates with residents. The City asks that it please forward this information to any residents not able to make this meeting.*

Q: Are there any plans to extend the work down Willard Avenue?

A: *There may be a plan to install new utility lines down Willard Avenue over time, but not in the immediate future.*

Next Steps

- A. The City's engineering consultant will move forward with design of the area based on the results of this meeting and the preferred layouts.
- B. The City will hold a Pre-Construction Meeting in a few months prior to the start of work. A notice will be distributed once the final time and locations has been determined.
- C. The City will present the removal of trees (1 anticipated) to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Tree & Greenery. These meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of each month, in the City Manager's conference room at City Hall, starting at 7:30am.

Summary of Attachments

- A. Meeting Sign-In Sheet
- B. Proposed Layouts

ATTACHMENT B



