



NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Police Chief Timothy Labrie -Chairman
1 Hope Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588
(508) 234-6211 tlabrie@northbridgemass.org

May 18, 2022

Northbridge Board of Selectmen
Northbridge Memorial Town Hall
7 Main Street,
Whitinsville MA 01588

RECEIVED
22 MAY 26 AM 10:58
NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LINDA B. ZYWIEN

Dear Board of Selectmen:

The Northbridge Safety Committee met WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 2022 at the Police Department In attendance: Timothy Labrie, David White, George Murray, Jamie Luchini, George Simmons, Peter Bedigian, Gary Bechtholdt.

I. ALL MEETING TO ORDER

Timothy Labrie called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made (Luchini) Safety Committee voted to uphold the meeting minutes of March 23, 2022. George Murray second. All in favor.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Timothy Labrie received an email from a resident of Linwood Ave requesting speed bumps. Residents dog was recently struck and killed by a car. Chairman Labrie did respond to the resident and advised him due to Linwood Ave being a public way and federal regulations we can not install speed bumps. He was invited to the safety meeting but did not respond back.

IV. ROCKDALE POCKET PARK (FORMER ROCKDALE YOUTH CENTER SITE/ PROVIDENCE ROAD)

Gary Bechtholdt wanted it on the record for future meetings that this property has been discussed and is looking for design ideas. The property (approx. 30x 75-feet) was conveyed to the town as part of a federal Disaster Recovery grant awarded for the relocation of the Rockdale Youth Center from Providence Road to Church Ave (former St. Peters Parish school building), a project George Murray also played an instrumental role in. The property on Providence Road is located within the floodplain of the Blackstone River and as such design elements will need to incorporate pervious materials, where the site cannot be entirely paved, nor used as a parking lot due to the restrictions places as part of the Disaster Recover funds received. G Bechtholdt wanted to include the Safety Committee early in the design phase, suggesting the pocket-park design (to be determined) should be a welcomed and safe amenity for Rockdale. G Bechtholdt informed that he met a number of times with Whitin Community Center including the children that attend the Youth Center for initial design ideas and hopes to incorporate some of those elements. G Bechtholdt suggest the park may likely include raised planting beds, shade trees, benches and also lighting depending on what the Safety Committee and others feels is

necessary. Gary Bechtholdt confirmed funding for the project through American Rescue Plan Act and monetary donation (/gift) as part of the Stonehill Condominium development.

V. MUMFORD RIVERWALK (LINWOOD AVE)

Gary Bechtholdt wanted it on the record for a future meeting that the Town (under the general direction of the Planning Board) is to construct an elevated boardwalk along a portion of the Mumford Riverwalk. The boardwalk will run approximately 350-feet within the vicinity of the Middle School parking lot passed the driveway of the Whitinsville Christian School along Linwood Avenue. Having a boardwalk at this location was part of the original design conceived by Sharron Ampagoomian and Barbara Gaudette some 25-years ago, however had not been realized due to cost and was not needed at the time. G Bechtholdt reminded Committee members despite cautioning the former DPW Director how widening the travel lanes along Linwood Avenue (at Whitinsville Christian School driveway) would restrict and eliminate the existing Mumford Riverwalk trail, the roadway was widened and thereby created a potential safety issue for users of the Mumford Riverwalk trail along this section. As a result, DPW later installed barriers. G Bechtholdt explained the idea of having a boardwalk at this location has now become a necessity. G Bechtholdt noted, in reviewing cost options an at-grade boardwalk was considered, however was quickly dismissed as the boardwalk would be some 4 to 5-feet below the elevation of Linwood Avenue, creating a potential safety concern where users would be hidden from public view. G Bechtholdt explained the first step is to have the property surveyed (with topo/elevations), then an engineer will be hired to design the boardwalk and prepare bid docs for a contractor to construct the elevated boardwalk. G Bechtholdt will update the Committee as part of the design phase. Gary Bechtholdt confirmed funding for the project through American Rescue Plan Act and monetary donation (/gift) as part of the Stonehill Condominium development.

VI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Northbridge Fire Department, David White advised Mass DOT approved the only entrance into the new fire department on Providence Road to have a yellow flashing light. Light is triggered by the fire trucks. Department Public Works has assisted with cutting down brush and trees to extend the visibility pulling out onto Providence Road.
- b. Jamie Luchini reported no new updates on the Providence Rd/ Sutton St/ School St intersection.
- c. Gary Bechtholdt inquired about any new updates on Quaker Street @ Church Street. Jamie Luchini stated no new update and not on the board for any future projects
- d. George Simmons asked if there were any age restriction laws or by laws for older kids hanging out at playgrounds in Northbridge. Timothy Labrie stated the Northbridge Elementary School Principal and Police Department have received complaints of older kids playing/ hanging out at the Northbridge Elementary School. Timothy Labrie suggested “No trespassing after dark” signs, extra cruiser patrol and posting “camera in use ” signs. Timothy Labrie stated he has requested the School Resource Officer Thomas Dejordy check with the school to see if the school can discipline in school for any after hour issues at the playground. George Murray suggested the school consult with school council on laws involving kids and civil rights violations.

VII. Next meeting will be Wednesday June 15, 2022 at 10am at the Northbridge Police Department.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Timothy Labrie motioned the adjournment of the meeting at 1036 am and Jamie Luchini second it. All in favor.

Respectfully yours,

Chief Timothy Labrie

Northbridge Police Department

CHAIRMAN, NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

-LMG

Cc: Northbridge Town Clerk Northbridge Town Manager Lt. John Ouillette

/File

