DIP Minutes of Meeting held on 12/2/19

Meeting Commenced at 8:31 A.M.

In Attendance: Members: Chairman Steve Carhart, Kirk Svetaka, Chris Shea, Linda Crosby, Carley Cook, Ben Rossi, and Gar Morse, DPW Director Chuck Dam, Project and Facilities Manager Nate Desrosiers, Grant Coordinator Mary Reilly and interested citizen Bob Coyne

Chuck and Nate explained that the Summer / Washington St. Intersection project has been put off until the spring. The contractor has committed to finishing it by then. There have been a few calls and a written petition from residents mostly regarding sight lines at the intersection. Ben again raised the issue of making Sea St. One Way which would resolve that issue.

Chuck indicated that our new proposed plans for School / Central and Beach / Union would be brought to the Selectmen tonight after which he would approach the State and the contractors. The new plans have slightly reduced parking setbacks from the crosswalks in the intersections. As far as School / Central is concerned Kirk wanted to know the status of Church St. changing direction. Chuck felt that this really didn’t affect the construction at the intersection. He still hopes to get a contract in place and have the work done by 7/1/2020. The curb at the corner has been repaired but could use some temporary painted lines to keep cars and trucks from hitting it. Gar & Linda suggested that some serious enforcement be put in place regarding large trucks in town. Linda felt we should consider eliminating large trucks from School St. Chuck stated that we would need a State traffic study. Bob Coyne also felt that large trucks should use Pine St. Perhaps we could ask restaurants and markets to instruct their delivery people to use Pine St. The new plan for the Beach / Union St. intersection was agreed to by everyone with only discussion regarding crosswalks.

The new light fixtures for the downtown have arrived in California and should be here in two weeks. Manchester Electric should start work on them by the end of the month given decent weather. Steve bought up the issue of beautification efforts in the Phase II area. Ben explained that in Phase I there was a $1M grant along with $700K in private funds. Mary Reilly stated that her primary grant efforts are in the Climate / Conservation arena. She will speak to Town Planner Sue Brown to dig out plans from the past several years and to start formulating a grant game plan. Chris wondered why Salem, Beverly and several other towns are able to make significant improvements. Apparently the mayors are connected to Federal and Mass Works funding. We all agreed that we have to get the conceptual work done. We all agreed that our primary goal for 2020 would be to develop such a plan.

Nate gave us an update on the Town Green and Veteran’s Memorial projects. Work is scheduled to be completed by 7/1/2020 in time for the 375th July 4th celebrations. He also explained work on the culvert on Central St. has been put off at least until 2021. Kirk also hoped that we could address the Pine / Central intersection as well in early 2020.

The next DIP Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2020 at 8:30 AM at Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 AM

Respectfully submitted

Chris Shea