

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020, 6:00 PM  
FRANKLIN VILLAGE HALL – BROUGHTON HOUSE  
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 48025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Pam Hansen, at 6:05 PM at the Franklin Village Hall, Franklin, Michigan.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Fred Gallasch, Brian Gordon, Ed Saenz, Pam Hansen, Bill Lamott, Mira Stakhiv  
Absent: Mike Seltzer  
Also Present: Roger Fraser, Interim Village Administrator  
Eileen Pulker, Village Clerk  
Tad Krear, Land Design Studio  
Jeff Huhta, Nowak & Fraus Engineers  
Steve Sutton, Nowak & Fraus Engineers - Estimator  
Robert White, Illuminart

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion by Lamott, seconded by Gordon to adopt the agenda, as presented.**

Hansen requested to add **VI. Discuss January 29, 2020 Community Meeting at the Franklin Church**, following **V. Discuss Franklin Road Streetscape Plan**.

**Motion by Lamott, seconded by Gordon to adopt the agenda, as amended.**

**Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Lamott, Saenz, Stakhiv**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Seltzer**

**Motion carried.**

**IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS**

Hansen explained the normal procedures for Public Requests and Comments. However, she suggested those in attendance who wished to address items already on the Agenda would have the opportunity to comment at that time.

Huhta stated he would like to give his entire presentation first and then open it up to public comments.

**V. DISCUSS FRANKLIN ROAD STREETScape PLAN.**

Huhta called this particular meeting a “presentation of the concept plan”. In the previous three (3) meetings Council members have expressed their thoughts about what they felt was important, what they liked and/or didn’t like with respect to the overall sidewalk enhancement project. All the collected data was drafted in an engineering way and a detailed estimate for the improvements was prepared for the Council members. The goals of this meeting were to seek Council’s approval for advancing to the construction document phase of the project. Based on the lighting

component and tonight's discussions about cost, there would be more meetings to hone in on more details.

Huhta stated that he had read and approved the minutes from the last meeting.

Council was provided a full set of plan documents for this discussion and the Village would be given two (2) full sets for the office. Referring to the slide presentation of each page, Huhta pointed out details that Council had discussed at previous meetings, including the sidewalk on the east side of Franklin Road from 13 Mile Road to downtown, ADA approved sidewalks at the intersections and possible demarcation of crosswalks at Franklin Road and Wellington, retaining walls of 30" or less along Franklin Road to accommodate the various grading, drainage, and catch basin issues and existing utilities in the area, 4 ft. sidewalks with ADA approved "bump outs" and/or 5 ft. sidewalks, minimal tree removal, additional curbing in selective areas similar to that found throughout the Village, rehabbing or replacing some sidewalks, Kreger House walkway which might be a future project, possible walkway from Franklin Road to the gallery on Wellington, shift Franklin Road to the east and possible placements of curbs in front of the four(4) homes on the west side of Franklin north of Wellington, marking of a pathway in front of the gas station and fire station, and a replacement or elimination of the boulders on the east side of Franklin Road south of 14 Mile Rd.

Huhta explained the coordinating process of his firm's interfacing with the roadway consultant.

During the meeting the budget was of concern. Council members were given copies of the Engineer's Estimate for the Streetscape Improvements. There were questions that needed to be answered and possibly added to the cost of the project before decisions could be made.

After a discussion about possibly adding more items to the "to do" list, Huhta pointed out that this was a 120 day project. The Village was up against a tight time frame and in order for this project to be accomplished this year it would need to start construction in June. Referencing the budget, Frazer had provided Council with an estimated budget for this project, what it had already been spent, and from what source(s) the money would come. Hansen reminded Council that it would put the asphalt costs at risk if there were a delay in the streetscape project, as it had been purchased at an already agreed upon price.

Krear compiled a list of those items discussed at this meeting:

1. Between Scenic to 13 Mile – go between 4 ft. wide sidewalks with bump outs to 5 ft. wide sidewalks.
2. Walk to the Kreger House.
3. Downtown sidewalks – replace them all vs. replace some.
4. Delineation of a walk in front of the fire station.
5. "Dead Rock" wall, on east side of Franklin Rd. near 14 Mile Road.
6. Walkway on the west side, Evelyn Ct. to the Cider Mill.
7. Eliminate sidewalk from Meadow Dr. to 13 Mile Rd.
8. Retaining walls – different versions of design.
9. Walkway across 13 Mile Rd. at Franklin Rd.

Krear compiled a list of key decisions made:

1. Regular concrete in the downtown, grey in color.
2. Crosswalk material – reflective thermal striping.
3. Lighting at major crosswalks.
4. Natural Michigan stone for retaining walls.
5. Traffic Signage/posts – not decided.
6. Crosswalk signage – not decided, waiting for completion of Sign Study.
7. No irrigation system – use watering truck and special soils.
8. Lighting downtown – 6 poles (already in budget).

Huhta confirmed that presently the project was over budget and decisions to eliminate items or keep them as alternates, needed to be made tonight.

Lamott added two (2) more issues to be discussed and decided: west side of Franklin Road in front of the houses between Wellington and Vincennes- install a granite curb, move the walk over or do nothing; and, a walk on the west side of Wellington to Carol and the library to Carol.

Lamott stated this plan needed to go to the State Preservation Office as he would like to have its input; the sooner the better. Its opinion would not be mandatory but what it said would be significant and the Village should pay attention to it. He and Fraser would speak with the State Preservation Office tomorrow to see what the process would be.

Council members voiced their opinions on those items discussed at tonight's meeting:

1. 4 ft. wide walkways with bump outs vs. 5 ft. wide – majority voted for 5 ft.
2. Retaining walls – more research needed regarding costs.
3. Wellington to Carol on west side of Franklin Rd. – eliminate stretch on Carol going west to Kreger House – majority in favor.
4. Sidewalk in front of the four (4) homes on west side of Franklin Rd.– final decision deferred, proceed with design and include it in contract with several options to consider.
5. Walk in front of the fire station – Huhta will talk with Averbuch about creating a designated walking area.
6. “Dead Rock Wall” on east side of Franklin Rd., north of Van Every House – eliminate it and re-engineer the hill.
7. Sidewalk from Evelyn Ct. (west side of Franklin Rd.) to the Cider Mill – in favor.
8. Sidewalk from Meadow Dr. (east side of Franklin Rd.) to 13 Mile Rd. – create an alternate plan and ask the residents for opinions.
9. Crosswalk on west side of Franklin Rd. to cross 13 Mile Rd. – more research needed.

Using information garnered from this meeting, Huhta stated that the cost estimates would be refined and presented at the next meeting.

Lamott questioned why some of the sidewalks which he felt were in good condition were being replaced. He asked that those areas be looked at again. Huhta and Lamott will walk it together.

(9 PM Saenz excused himself from the meeting.)

Robert White, Illuminart light designer, introduced himself. He stated that he had visited the Village Friday night and took pictures during different times of day and evening which he displayed on slides. He provided his initial professional observations, pointing out existing “good and could be better” lighting, as well as inconsistent lighting and those places where lighting might be needed, as proposed by the new streetscape plans.

Lighting Ordinances need to be written, distributed to the merchants, and enforced. According to Hansen, White has offered to help write some Ordinances which would then be given to the Planning Commission. White added that he was willing to help in augmenting other areas, if needed.

**VI. DISCUSS JANUARY 29, 2020 COMMUNITY MEETING AT THE FRANKLIN CHURCH**

Council announced plans to have a public meeting January 29, 2020 at 6 PM at the Church. An informational mailing would be sent out to all residents, merchants, and property owners and the information would be put in Pulker’s email blast and on the Village Facebook page. Pulker will call Steve Rota at BCTV and ask that the meeting be videotaped.

Huhta said the meeting would be the similar to tonight’s presentation, giving the residents all the information and feedback. This would not be a decision making meeting. Lighting would also be included in the presentation

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion Stakhiv, seconded by Gordon to adjourn the meeting.**

**Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Lamott, Saenz, Stakhiv**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Seltzer**

**Motion carried.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

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Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

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Pamela Hansen, President