

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019, 6:00 PM
FRANKLIN VILLAGE HALL – BROUGHTON HOUSE
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 48025**

Huhta referred to the agenda on his **Project Design Review Meeting No: 2, December 16, 2019** report which was distributed to Council members. Also sent out was the “Look Ahead Meeting Agenda No: 3 for January 6, 2020”. In the December 16, 2019 Report he listed those Goals for today’s meeting and Discussion Points. Lighting, irrigation and signage would be looked at next week.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Gallasch, seconded by Stakhiv to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Ayes: Gallasch, Hansen, Lamott, Stakhiv
Nays: None
Absent: Gordon, Saenz, Seltzer
Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

Hansen stated that questions and comments would be allowed while Council was discussing specific items that the consultants were going to bring to Council.

V. DISCUSS FRANKLIN ROAD STREETScape PLAN.

Huhta stated that in the December 2, 2019 meeting minutes everything was captured, adding that the January 21, 2020 meeting would be a presentation of a concept plan.

At the last meeting there was a consensus that the pathway from Scenic to 13 Mile Road would be on the east side of the road and the side walk would be 48 inches wide through the downtown. The topic of curb vs. no curb was discussed and would be looked at again.

Hansen met with Jerry Johnson who is the Village contractor for street maintenance in the winter and roadside maintenance in the summer. He was asked about the future maintenance issues and cost of curbs and pedestrian walkways. Johnson provided information related to his current equipment. In support of the contractor, she was in favor of having the sidewalks larger than 48

inches. From Huhta's perspective, he thought the width of the contractor's current equipment should not dictate the width of the sidewalk. Additional conversations with Johnson might come to some resolution. Hansen suggested Johnson come to Council for a discussion.

Referring back to Discussion Points, Huhta updated Council on the Field Survey/Geotechnical Investigation. The Field Survey was mostly complete and final report on the Geotechnical Investigation would be available at the beginning of next year. Based on his and Stakhiv's experience with the repaving of Franklin Road, Gallasch was concerned about the number of cores being dug. He opined that ten (10) cores were not enough. Huhta stated that the contract could be modified to include additional cores. As requested, one set of the preliminary layout plans would be in the Village office for future references.

Huhta provided slides of site sketches, showing example placements of four (4) ft. sidewalks, including the curb/no curb options and the proposed low retaining wall in front of the four (4) residences. The different curb materials, designs, costs, and the advantages of including curbs (safety and drainage) were discussed, as well as the curbing being used on both sides of Franklin Road within the area in front of the four residences. Huhta will design it both ways and the decision may depend on the cost.

Furthering the discussion about curbs, each Council member expressed his/her thoughts. Gallasch felt that doing less was better than doing too much. In that regard, he re-iterated his concern about sticking to the budget. Lamott was a big advocate of "soft edges" and he saw this plan with curbs as the exact opposite of that. For him, it took away the Village's rural character and he would like to find a way so that the contrast was not as stark. Lamott opined that this didn't belong to downtown Franklin. Stakhiv noted that normally she was in favor of soft edges; however, for the sake of the four residences, she would like to minimize any encroachment toward what the residents in the four (4) houses see as their personal space, even though it is the right of way. She didn't mind granite curbs if they're in a limited space. She definitely would like those residents to "be on board" with the design. Hansen saw the guillotine granite as softer in appearance than the current curbs downtown. She liked Huhta's design because it was subtle enough to address the safety issue and that he found a solution that would minimize the intrusion into existing structures. After speaking with the Village maintenance contractor she felt greatly reassured that the maintenance budget would not go up significantly. She really favored the granite and its appearance, even after some of the material had chipped off.

Responding to Huhta's question of whether to consider curbs on one side or both, Stakhiv reasoned that it should be done in an aesthetically pleasing manner, even though it would be random. Lamott stated that he was not in favor. Huhta noted that mailboxes and mail delivery needed to be considered in the plan. The Post Master would be consulted.

With the discussions, decisions, and thoughts at tonight's meeting, Huhta now had what he needed to prepare a conceptual layout drawing.

Slides of the options for sidewalk finishes were displayed: standard concrete and exposed aggregate, such as that used at the Kreger House, and the different colors of each and the maintenance of each. Huhta suggested that a decision be made favoring a consistent look and feel

of all the sidewalks which would fit the vernacular of the entire Village. Mock-ups would be done before the cement for the actual sidewalks were poured so as to assure the accuracy of what was specified.

Huhta confirmed that his contract was to design sidewalks on both sides of the road between Scenic and 14 Mile Road and on the east side between Scenic and 13 Mile Road.

It was suggested that in downtown proper the sidewalks could have an antique finish or exposed aggregate and Scenic to 13 Mile could have regular concrete. Stakhiv was in favor of a simpler sidewalk. Hansen didn't mind the look of the exposed aggregate if it was the small rock, but her concern was the maintenance of it. She, personally, would defer to the rest of the Council on the details. However, she liked the idea of toning down the bright white color of concrete. All agreed.

The subject of different materials for crosswalks was discussed. Huhta showed slides of different examples and noted the most cost effective designation was a painted or thermal striping material applied to the road. Hansen would like a crosswalk which was highly visible, unlike the stamped concrete that was currently in the Village which blends in at night and when it snows. Huhta also showed a clay paver construction which could be used to designate crosswalks. The cost of different crosswalks would be part of the Concept Estimate which would be presented at the January 21, 2020 meeting as a line item.

The intersection of Wellington, German Mill, and Franklin was discussed in the Design Committee and the idea of a textured pavement was suggested. This might slow the traffic coming down the hill; however, it would be at a big cost. Huhta provided several other options. Because this was a very busy intersection, Stakhiv would like to see a square crosswalk or something that would make a statement emphasizing its importance so people would pay more attention to it.

Responding to Cestar's question of why have a sidewalk in front of the four (4) houses, Krear explained that he had found available statistics which stated that Franklin's downtown walkability score was 54% out of 100%. That meant Franklin was for the most part an auto-dependent community. He explained the financial benefits of being a walkable downtown and data supporting the idea of having sidewalks on both sides of the road.

Possible areas for retaining walls where they were deemed necessary along Franklin Road from Scenic to 13 Mile Road had been identified at the previous meeting presentation. It was Huhta's desire to keep the retaining wall materials consistent, just as it was the desire for the sidewalk materials. Slides of the optional materials and construction were presented. An engineered retaining wall system made of concrete with vines growing on them would be the most economical to install. It was also suggested that some of the hills might be graded and walls constructed; i.e. Van Every House. Other options were presented; real stone veneer (natural Michigan fieldstone cut very thin), split face veneer, or dry stack stone with no footing. Lamott listed some examples in various Franklin locations. The cost might be high, but Hansen liked the idea of trying to use similar looks that are already found in the Village and using natural materials as much as possible.

Huhta would be developing a Concept Plan and present cost estimates.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lamott, seconded by Stakhiv to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Gallasch, Hansen, Lamott, Stakhiv

Nays: None

Absent: Gordon, Saenz, Seltzer

Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

Pamela Hansen, President