

June 4, 2002

Pre-construction Conference - Wykeham Road

First Selectman Elaine Luckey called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. She explained the meeting had been called to allow the Town, Waters Construction and the State to discuss specifics of the Wykeham Road project and that a public hearing had previously been held regarding this project. Since residents with concerns were in attendance, it was agreed they could express their concerns at the beginning of the meeting. However, once their concerns were stated, it was agreed the meeting would return to a work session with no further comments from the public. The public was invited to remain to listen.

Present:

Selectmen: Elaine Luckey, Nick Solley, Harry Wyant

Foreman: Roger Cannavaro

Engineer: Bob Oley, Land Tech, Inc., Southbury

Contractor: Allan Swanson, Waters Construction Co., Bridgeport, CT

Project Coordinator: Gene Parsons

State D.O.T.: Tom Burgess, Project Engineer; Linda Pregno, Mark Andrewsikos

Guests: Wykeham Road residents: Tom Hearn, John Wallace, Mary Ewing, Peter Rogness, Cheryl Anderson, Rebecca Phillips and Margaret Grimes

Rebecca Phillips reported the former First Selectman had indicated that minimal work would be done to the road and the width would not be increased. She expressed her concern over the high rate of speed from cars, heavy trucks and semi-trailers on a rural country road and felt it is dangerous for walkers.

Mary Ewing noted her concern over the dangerous curve on Wykeham, as well as the speed. She felt if the road were upgraded, speed would increase.

Peter Rogness suggested a STOP sign be placed at the intersection where Wykeham meets Old Litchfield Road. He feels this is an extremely dangerous situation and the traffic level has increased noticeably.

Margaret Grimes questioned what had prompted this proposal and whether the town or the state had initiated it. She noted there is a tremendous amount of wildlife, as well as domestic animals, on the road. She felt these changes will destroy the character of the road and that the character of the town is the reason many people have come to town.

Tom Burgess of the D.O.T. reported this project is part of the STP Urban/Rural Road program and was initiated through the Council of Governments. The State of Connecticut serves as the liaison between the federal and town government to obtain federal funds for town roads. Approval has been received by the Town to be reimbursed for 80% of the approved costs. The road was considered to be in a state of deterioration, and rather than have the Town pay for the entire project, an application for the federal grant was sought. The intent of the project is not to change the geometry of the project but rather to resurface the roadway.

Nick Solley noted the Town annually repaves three-quarters to two miles of roadway, sometimes with funding assistance from the State. Safety is the responsibility of the Town and the major reason for road repairs. This is a four-season issue, not only during summer months, but also during the snowplowing season. This particular grant is a federal grant for rural minor/major collector roads. Wykeham Road is considered a minor collector road because it is a through road between Route 47 and Old Litchfield Road to Route 109. Traffic studies on that portion of Wykeham Road that continues eastward from the

intersection of Old Litchfield Road to Nettleton Hollow indicate about one third of the use of this portion of the road. It is a collector road for both town residents and those passing through town.

Cheryl Anderson voiced her concern over pedestrian safety. She noted many college students use the roadway to walk and it is very dangerous because of the speed of traffic.

Rebecca Phillips reported six petitions from individuals who were unable to be at the meeting, as well as the number in attendance, indicate the degree of concern of the residents. All agree they want the traffic to be slower.

Elaine Luckey reported the Town had started this project two years ago. She reiterated that a public informational meeting had been held and the residents had been invited and given the opportunity to express their concerns. The Town continued with the process as dictated by both the federal and state governments in applying for the grant, in securing an engineering plan, in soliciting and receiving bids, and in receiving the necessary approvals. She felt while the Town may be able to accommodate some of the concerns, in the interest of public safety the Town will continue with this project.

Roger Cannavaro, the Town's road foreman, noted the town roads need to be upgraded on a scheduled basis for plowing and public safety. He felt it would unfortunate not to continue with this project. As far as the traffic flow, he felt it is up to the police to patrol, post speed limits and strictly enforce them. He also noted the pipe railing just below the library is in very poor shape

The Board thanked the public for their comments and proceeded with the work session.

Elaine reported written approval of the bid had been received from the State.

Nicholas Solley made a motion to award the bid for the reclamation and resurfacing of Wykeham Road to Waters Construction Co., Inc. of Bridgeport, CT for \$189,676.50. Elaine Luckey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Nick will administrate the project on behalf of the Town, while Gene Parsons, who has completed similar projects for Roxbury and Kent, will serve as the project coordinator.

Waters Construction provided an emergency call list and an environmental plan. They will also provide a list of intended suppliers and approved subcontractors now that they have formally been awarded the bid. It was noted a specification for full depth reclamation had not been included in the specs.

As soon as the contract is completed by the Town and Waters Construction, the Town will issue a Notice to Proceed. It was agreed to aim for a starting date of Monday, June 17. Once the Notice is issued, the project must be started within ten days. Waters will provide one certified traffic person. The need for someone to lead and trail was noted. The Town will provide additional traffic control and signage. The Town will prepare the roadway by cleaning and cutting back the overgrowth on the road edges. One drainage culvert was included in the specifications. The Town will prepare other areas that need attention the week prior to June 17th. Nick suggested the horse farm on Wykeham Road could be used for a storage area. It was felt there would be a minimum of storage needed for machinery and pipe. Compaction tests will be done by the State through Thomaston labs. Approximately 2,205 feet will be reclaimed. This material will be ground up and replaced. A grader will grade the surface to rid it of wheel tracks and flaws and prepare a cross-sloping grade for better water runoff in an attempt to create a smoother profile. In doing so, there could be a need for additional sub-base. The Town will work with the contractor to assist in determining trouble spots, etc. Hours of work are schedule for 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; however, it was noted if they are in the middle of a particular process, this may be extended slightly. Waters will send a weekly certified payroll to the Town. These are to be given to Gene Parsons for

approval. A CLA-3 form will be required for payment to Waters Construction. A 2% retainage will be held after the job is completed for one year.

Litchfield County Dispatch will be contacted by the Town when the work is to begin. Waters Construction will contact the Judea Water Company and Call Before You Dig regarding underground pipes, etc. It was noted the water pipes are very old and their exact location has not been provided by the Judea Water Company in many places. An attempt will be made to give this as much attention as possible. The Town will provide topsoil for the edge of the road. It was noted the Washington Montessori School has good topsoil available at a good price. Driveway entrances will be repaved. It was noted there is approximately 7% built into the project as a contingency for unforeseen circumstances.

Again, it was noted there is no intention to widen the road beyond it's current widths and a curb-to-curb overlay will be installed. It was agreed to extend the length of the project approximately 10 ft. in order to provide a better presentation in front of the home of Helen Wersebe. The Town and the State must both approve additional items that might be required. The cost will be an 80/20 split for the federal and town government.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Gollow
Selectman's Assistant