

Requests by the Planning Board to the Board of Selectmen with regards to the Resiliency Project on Apple Street – Culvert and Elevation/Width Increase to the road

To facilitate the future review of the project, the Planning Board would like to offer the following requests/recommendations. The recommendations were agreed to by an unanimous vote by the board at their meeting on 12/7/2022, note that the first two items are a directed at the BOS as a request, while the remaining statements are directed to the consultant.

Protection of Existing Trees and Stonewalls:

- Hire an independent Arborist for this project. The Arborist will be able to clearly define trees which are healthy and of a character to be maintained on the street.
- Hire an independent landscape architect to develop a landscape plan, working with the civil plan, to encourage good landscape stewardship. A landscape plan will be required for review of existing trees and stone walls and then the proposed removal.
- A record of all trees and stone walls to be removed should be photographed and archived with the Planning Board for review before and after construction. These photographs should also be used as the basis to restore any stone walls allowed to be removed.
- The riprap proposed is not responsive to planting and will not support tree planting. Provide stone clad retaining wall or other measures to shield the trees in select locations which would facilitate the protection of the most beautiful and healthy trees selected by the Arborist.
- During construction, all trees, large and small, that are to remain be very clearly tagged at the beginning of construction, so trees are not accidentally removed during construction.

Freeboard Elevation Height:

- Reduce the height of proposed elevation. Any reduction to the height of the road to at or just above the Base Flood Elevation will reduce the cost, the amount of materials required for the project, the angle and width of the of side embankments, and the amount of vegetation required to be removed.
- Specifically with regards to the review of the planning board, reduction of the elevation reduces the length of the guardrails, reduces the amount of stone wall to be removed and maintain trees.

Length of the Road to Be Raised:

- Consider reducing the project to only the area of the culvert replacement which is the minimum required repair to the road.

Road and embankment width: Request that a waiver be sought to preserve characteristics of the scenic road which would maintain the width of the road to the current width for the following reasons:

- Specifically with regards to the review of the planning board, reduction of the width reduces the amount of stone wall to be removed and maintain trees.
- The encroachment on the private property reduces the buildable area of the properties by reducing setback and reducing square footage.
- The wetland area at that location would be further protected by reducing the length and width of the project.
- Promotes context sensitive design.