

Martha's Vineyard Island Roads Committee

Minutes of Meeting 6

Date: September 4, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

Location: MVC Offices, 33 New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs

Present:

Committee Madeline Fisher (Co-Chair, MVC), Linda Sibley (Co-Chair, MVC), Stuart Fuller (Edgartown), Jay Grande (Tisbury), Dan Greenbaum (Chilmark), Fred Hancock (MVC), Richard Knabel (West Tisbury), Joan Malkin (MVC), Brian Smith (MVC), Craig Whitaker (Tisbury)

MVC Staff: Priscilla Leclerc, Mark London, Bill Veno

The meeting was chaired by Madeline Fisher who opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

1. **Expressions of Interest**

Jay Grande gave a report on behalf of the technical subcommittee that was asked to analyze the proposals and make recommendations.

- The subcommittee met on August 4 for an initial review.
- The subcommittee felt that three of the firms are mainly transportation firms with relatively little planning/landscape design experience, while one is mainly a planning firm with little transportation experience.
- It was agreed to focus on the offers from the three firms or consortia that demonstrate strength in both transportation and planning / landscape design, namely McCormick Taylor, BETA, and Howard Stein Hudson. It was agreed to add other firms if other members of the Island Roads Committee felt they met this criterion.
- A series of emails was sent to the three firms with a list of questions including those formulated by the Island Roads Committee at its July 17 meeting and the subcommittee at its August 4 meeting.
- Two of the firms responded to the questions. McCormick Taylor indicated that they were interested in working on a manual, but not on other consulting work.
- The subcommittee met earlier on September 4 to discuss its recommendations. It felt that it should conduct video-conference interviews with the candidates, proposing to do this on September 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the whole committee invited to attend. This would allow reporting back to the full committee if it meets on September 18.

Committee members had the following questions and comments.

- The consultants should clearly understand traffic, cars, trucks, mopeds, and bicycles as well as other functional requirements.
- Funding for future work could come from the towns and MVC, from private sources, and/or from state and federal grants such as MassDOT and FHWA.
- We need to address the funding issue. It would be problematic increasing assessments to the towns.
- With limited initial funds, we could prepare a scope of services for a manual. Alternatively, it could be used for planning work exploring alternatives for the Edgartown Vineyard Haven Road, which would be instructive for many of the general issues.

- It would be desirable to have some specific short term efforts, to help communicate what we are doing to potential funders.
- We should notify the press of the next Committee meeting, and the creation of the work groups.
- We could involve the public, asking them which roads are in greatest need of protection.
- We should look into the Olympia National Park, which eliminated fog lines by lowering the speed limit to 35mph, Acadia National Park, and the 1984 Park Road Manual which includes a catalogue of barriers.

It was agreed:

- to go ahead with the September 4th and 18th meetings as proposed,
- committee members are invited to suggest a set of questions for the interviews.

The Committee asked the technical subcommittee to prepare a comparison of the pros and cons of the firms.

2. Selection of Consultant

This was postponed to the next meeting.

3. Work Groups

Each of the four work groups should meet before the next Committee meeting to have an initial scoping session about how it sees its mission and what it needs to investigate. Different groups might approach things differently. Each should report back to the full Committee to coordinate the efforts. After the full Committee is satisfied, the overall mission could be made public.

There was a discussion of whether or not to include looking at private property, and it was suggested that this was more relevant for some work groups than others.

4. Meetings with State Representatives

There was a discussion as to when to meet with political representatives Dan Wolf and Tim Madden. Some felt it was a waste of time before the election, while others thought it was worth getting on their agendas soon. Their staff will be asked when they will be on-Island and available for a brief meeting.

It was agreed that Richard Knabel would mention to them that we have started working on this effort, and that we'll meet when the mission statement are ready.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.