

**WATERLINE MEETING WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
MARCH 19, 2014**

Present:

Jason Booth, Construction Project Manager, Aldrich & Elliott, PC  
George Dupont, Resident Project Representative, Aldrich & Elliott, PC  
Ray Counter, Brandon Fire District  
Robin Bennett, Town Manager  
Bernie Carr, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce

Also: Richard Baker, Deb Jennings, Dennis Marden, George Wetmore, Maria Ammatuna, Allan Leavitt, Wendy Bizzaro, Joel & Janet Mondlak, Gene Pagano, Line Barral, Lorraine Kimble, Jim Leary, Louis Pattis, AnnMarie Roth, Bruce Edwards, Lee Kahrs, Karen Desabrais, Jerry & Michelle Charron, George Reilly

George Dupont said problems, concerns and questions should be addressed to him and not the contractor. He will be on-site every day. Some activity has begun. The covered signs which were recently put up in downtown are for a Route 125 detour and have nothing to do with this project. The contractor will soon be putting up the signs for this project. George said he is here to please the town.

Jason Booth introduced Mike, the VHB, local project manager. VHB will be involved "behind the scenes" but may be on site sometimes. CLD was the design engineer. He distributed a status of the project with contact information. J.A. McDonald is the general contractor for the project. George Dupont is the liaison for the project; the point of contact.

Jason Booth said they plan to post weekly updates with the intended schedule for the following week and any other pertinent information. For any critical shutdowns or detours, they will work with the town to get the information to business owners and others who may be affected. He asked about the best way to communicate.

Jason Booth said McDonald has provided a schedule. There are some deadlines as part of the contract that McDonald needs to hit: May 15 and June 20 are hard deadlines, as required by certain easement agreements. He said McDonald intends to start some construction activity this week. Next week, they expect to have a track rig to profile ledge for blasting. Within the next two to three weeks, they plan to start construction. Construction is intended with the river crossing and work south through the alley at the Brandon Inn. The next step will be the northern side of the river, through Bob Read's and onto Route 7. However, "schedules change."

Jason Booth said their intent is for weekly updates on site with the contractor and any representatives from the town to get an idea of the schedule for the following week. They will work with VHB, the town and the Chamber of Commerce to get out the information.

Ray Counter said JA McDonald did not do a good job with the communication piece throughout the Segment 5 project. He said we want to make sure we will do a better job this time. George said he has had a discussion with McDonald about it. That man is “no longer working with McDonald.” He said has a “good feeling” about Chris [Chris Davidson, Project Superintendent for J.A. McDonald].

Jason Booth said they are going to make a point of pushing communication out to people. Everyone in town is affected by the project. Good communication will be key. He said they will do their best to make sure communication is out there and will work their best to get information from McDonald.

Jason said there is a website just for the project, maintained by VHB. The web address is: <http://www.brandonprojects.com/waterline.asp>. He said they will be communicating through the Chamber to get information out to businesses and working with the town. He asked for feedback and for the best way to push out communication.

Bernie Carr said the Chamber would like to be the contact point for disbursement of information. Janet Mondlak said a while ago, the Chamber established a website at: <http://www.brandonbuilds.com> which will continue through all of the Segment 6 project, as a way to get the word out. People can sign up for email updates about the project from the Chamber’s homepage of <http://www.brandon.org> or from the brandonbuilds.com website. Jason asked for links back and forth from brandonbuilds.com to the brandonprojects.com website. Jason Booth asked about other ways to get out information and people suggested Front Porch Forum and local newspapers.

Jim Leary asked if there will be particular person tasked with getting information about the weekly meetings to the websites. Jason Booth said Aldrich & Elliott will be running those meetings. They will be communicating with VHB, who operates the website for the water project.

Lorraine Kimble said not everyone is on-line and Jason Booth said the information will be sent to the local newspapers and to the Town Manager. It was suggested that weekly meeting notices be posted on the town bulletin board.

Janet Mondlak recommended that cell phone text messages be used to alert people in the downtown business community about water shutoffs. Jason Booth asked the Chamber of Commerce to get the local business owners’ contact info. He said George Dupont will be on site to let people know if there are water shutoffs. Bernie Carr said it will be very important when there are emergency shutoffs.

George Dupont said for the most part, the contractor comes prepared with “parts and pieces” and there should not be too many emergencies that can’t be fixed quickly. Janet Mondlak asked that bottled water be available for those businesses that might have emergencies if there are unplanned water shutoffs, like the doctors, dentists, and

hairdressers. Jason Booth said when they do have an emergency break, they carry parts and pieces.

Jason Booth said as for working hours and duration, the contract allows for work to take place Monday – Saturday, 7 am – 7 pm. That probably won't happen every week. The contractor has indicated they intend to mainly work Monday – Friday, 7 am – 5 pm, But they have the opportunity to work extended hours and they may need to, in order hit a deadline. He said they will do their best to let people know when those work hours change. Bernie Carr said one example might be if the Town Hall has a performance at 6 pm on Saturday and the contractor has an excavator working out front. Jason Booth said there are times when they won't be running the excavator. The Town Hall and other businesses should let George Dupont know about special events. He said they will do their best to work with the contractor, but by contract, they are allowed to work 6 days a week, 12 hours a day.

Jason Booth said by May 15, they need to be through the Brandon Inn and through the river. By June 20, they need to be tying into the water line. They have until Aug. 29 to achieve final completion: complete restoration of the project.

Jason Booth said the contractor intends to start work on the southern side of the river during the first or second week in April. They will work from there southerly, through the Brandon Inn alley and into the Route 7 roadway. They are scheduled to be through that area by May 15. George Wetmore asked if Central Park will be affected and Jason Booth said no, the project stops in Route 7, in front of the Brandon Inn. Bernie Carr asked why they are starting at the river. He said if they started in Route 7 and worked toward the river, they would be out of the way of the Park and things like Farmer's Market. Jason Booth said the contractor is responsible for "means and methods." Aldrich & Elliott can provide comment on the schedule and whether they feel McDonald should consider a different approach. McDonald feels this is the most efficient method to get the project done. They feel that to get the river crossing pipe in first is critical to align the remaining pipe going south in a manner to make a connection easier. Also, they have concerns about frost and about digging through the alley going northerly. Those are some of the reasons. George Dupont said he has made suggestions, such as saw cutting in the major roads, and he will allow them a temporary sign package, so when the frost is out, they won't have to worry about doing that. He said they seem cooperative.

Jason Booth said after May 15, they will be starting on the northerly side of the river and there will be blasting. Some of that may be concurrent with work on the southern side of the river. The pipe installation will be after May 15, going through Read's, down West Seminary and into Route 7. They need to be tied in to the northern part of the road by June 20.

Jason Booth said he has some scheduling info, but it is "absolutely subject to change." He said the Route 7 south interconnect is currently scheduled for April 7 – 25. The

northern work will take longer because of blasting. There will be more of a prolonged disturbance on that side and it is currently scheduled for May 12 – June 20.

Joel Mondlak asked about pedestrian access along Park Street, in front of the Brandon Inn. Jason Booth said the contractor is required to maintain access as best they can. There will likely be some disturbance or detour of pedestrian traffic but they do need to provide a means. He said they will be required to keep access at all times. Traffic will flow to the southern part of Central Park. He said for the northern detour, traffic will be closed on one of the lanes.

Jason Booth said people will be able to turn in to Park Street coming from either the north or south, in order to park in front of the Park Street businesses (from the crosswalk to the bank corner). Janet Mondlak asked for signs to be placed near the bank corner, letting people know they can access Park Street businesses and park in front of them. Jason Booth and George Dupont said that was not part of the sign package but they will look into it.

Jim Leary asked how many workers would be expected on site and where will they be parking their vehicles. Jason Booth said during the time that work is taking place on the southern part of the project, there will be an allowance for some parking and staging in the closed roadway [in front of the Brandon Inn]. He said he has also asked the contractor to communicate with the Mobil Station for use of parking out back. He said he doesn't know how many people they may have on site at any time. Jason Booth said the contractor is talking to Mr. Read about parking vehicles and storing things on his property. Jim Leary said many business owners would like it if contractors were not parking in front of businesses. George Dupont said he will make sure that doesn't happen. Jason Booth said any parking and staging in front of the Brandon Inn will only be during the time they have the road closed there. Jason Booth said there is a small temporary staging area behind the Brandon Inn. If McDonald comes to agreement with Mr. Read, a lot of staging materials would move there.

Jason Booth said with regards to blasting, McDonald intends to do line drilling to probe for ledge behind the Mobil Station and go southerly. When they can start will depend on the weather. They are looking to start mid-April through mid-May. George Dupont said the cross sections indicate a small amount of ledge at West Seminary and Route 7. The bulk is in the Read driveway and down to the river. Some of the more sensitive areas will probably be done with a hammer.

Lorraine Kimble asked if the pipe will be under the river and Jason Booth said the pipe will be pre-assembled above grade and then pulled into the riverbed as they pull it across the river. It will be under the river.

George Wetmore asked about the potential for diverting the truck traffic around town. George Dupont said he is amazed with the number of trucks through town. It was noted that Carter has about 200 trucks through town each day. Jason Booth said there is not a plan right now. He said they have talked to Ray Counter about special notifications for

truckers to let them know about detours. But there has been no discussion about detours. He said they have talked about posting notifications on the VTrans website. Bernie Carr said the Chamber advocates for keeping this “off” the VTrans website but specifically letting the trucking industry know about alternate routes. He said the Chamber wants to keep this out of traffic detours posted on GPS, especially since this is a “trial run” for the bigger project coming in a few years. We don’t want to be known as a place to avoid. Ray Counter said there have been discussions with representatives from Omya and they had commented it would be more of a possibility for them to “not haul” for a day or two, rather than detouring. He said when there is more of a schedule, they should be alerted. He said it seems more likely the northern end will be the issue. The hard thing is picking the day that there will be the delays. Jason Booth said he doesn’t know if they could give sufficient notice to Omya. He said he also didn’t know the coordination it would take for them to “not haul” for a day. He said he could see some value, for example, to “not haul” on days that are “put up” or “take down” of detours. He said this would be a good thing to discuss with McDonald. Lorraine Kimble suggested trucks use Country Club Rd. and Ray Counter said that had been suggested and Omya did not want to do that; they would rather not run the trucks for a couple of days.

AnnMarie Roth asked about the impact on the quality of water and whether there will be notifications of changes; for example, if the water were being treated. That is something important for her business. Jason Booth said the contractor won’t tie the line back in to the existing system until it passes tests and is potable. If there are any issues, i.e., some stirring up of anything which might cause discoloration, they would work with Ray Counter to let people know and about appropriate steps. George Dupont said the dirt would come from the old pipes.

Bernie Carr said this is a pilot project for the main Segment 6 project. He said we should all be taking notes of concerns and frustrations so these things could be addressed when it is time to do the main project. Gene Pagano said this is a very important project for our water and we have been lucky so far that there have not been emergencies.

Al Leavitt asked about blasting with such close proximity to buildings without damaging them and George Dupont said it will be done very carefully. They will do test blasts and will know how much and how big a shot they can make without problems. There was more discussion about blasting.

Thank you to everyone for coming.