



Municipality of Princeton

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IMPROVEMENT OF BANK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING NOTES MAY 17, 2016 – 7:30 pm

1. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions Liz Lempert, Mayor

2. General Improvements Overview Deanna Stockton, P.E.
 - Water main and services replacement by New Jersey American Water Company in conjunction with the municipality's project – NJAW anticipates that the earliest start of construction would be mid-June 2016. The replacement work would be completed in about 2 months, weather permitting. A few residents expressed concern with this schedule, as they have home renovations planned. Post-meeting, NJAW commented that they could start the project in August if desired.
 - Sanitary sewer main and laterals replacement – As a part of this project, new laterals will be added for duplexes that only have one shared lateral. Lateral work is proposed stop at the right of way line and not continue under steps / porches into basements. Some residents asked if the private property sanitary sewer lateral work could be included in the project. Mr. Hughes from the PSOC will check on this request and advise.
 - Storm sewer piping and inlet repairs where necessary – The decision on placement of utilities underground will affect the ability to add storm sewer piping in Bank Street. If utilities are placed underground, there may not physically be space to located more piping. The Engineering Department will continue to review options. One resident suggested that an easement be created across the back of the western lots to run a storm sewer system that would capture roof drainage; this would have many issues and legal implications.
 - Replacement of concrete curbing – The curbing has been approved by the State Historic Preservation Office to be replaced in kind with concrete curb. Residents requested that granite curb be used instead for durability and aesthetic reasons. Granite curb costs approximately twice as much as concrete curb; belgian block curb costs the same. Granite and belgian block curb can withstand snowplows, errant vehicles, and road salt better than concrete curb. Residents revised their request and have asked for consideration of 1. granite curb, 2. belgian block curb, and 3. concrete curb, in that order.
 - Replacement of sidewalks – One resident questioned whether other materials could be considered for the sidewalks; specifically, a colored and textured concrete like that which is used in Rocky Hill. The engineers expressed concern about this type of treatment for the following reasons: the textured surface holds water and may get icy patches, and it is

difficult to have future repairs match the surrounding sidewalk. It was noted that the original sidewalks were boards.

- Reconstruction of the roadway pavement
- Removal and replacement of existing trees

3. Cable / Electric / Telephone Utilities Replacement Underground

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/ Robert Kiser, P.E.

- Estimated total cost = \$1.94 million

PSE&G Electric	\$845,000
Verizon	\$715,000
Comcast	\$345,000
Suneyses	\$35,000
Total	\$1,940,000
Estimated Connection Cost Per Property	\$5,000

- Assessable to benefitted properties for a maximum 20-year term, with interest

Jean Durbin, Policy Director for Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, attended the Bank Street meeting. Assemblyman Zwicker sits on the Telecommunications Committee and is interested in assisting Princeton in finding a better solution for addressing the overhead utilities on Bank Street. The Board of Public Utilities requires that the utility companies pass on the cost of undergrounding their facilities to the benefitted properties, rather than all rate payers; further, there is no credit or recognition that the undergrounding provides a benefit to the utility.

Some discussion and voice polls were proposed to see if there is a threshold cost that the benefitted Bank Street properties would be willing to pay; no figure was agreed upon. Some discussion revolved around possibly choosing one telecommunications company to serve the neighborhood in order to remove one utility from the cost of the undergrounding.

Ms. Durbin will be reporting back within two weeks of the meeting regarding feedback from their discussions.

4. Possible Schedules

Deanna Stockton, P.E.
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- New Jersey American Water construction schedule – *See the first bullet under agenda item 2.*
- Schedule for general improvements – *A portion of the project funding is provided through a loan from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust. Prior to advertising for a contractor, the project documents must be submitted to the Trust for approval. If changes are made to the type of curbing, a project authorization amendment must be approved by the Princeton Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office. An ambitious schedule could have the project starting in the fall of 2016. Construction could take 6 months.*
- Schedule for general Improvements plus CET utilities replacement – *In addition to the approval processes discussed above, an assessment ordinance would need to be drafted,*

and then introduced and adopted after a public hearing by Princeton Council. This would take about 2-3 months and would occur before a project could be bid out.

5. Adjournment

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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