Attendees: Tracie Adams (Chair), Chris Buchanan, Will Ludt, Tom Grella, Rolf Biggers, and Kyle Coffey.

Staff present: Jennifer Stover (Executive Assistant); Eric Slosek (DPW Director)

**Administration**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM and all members were introduced. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Grella.

1. **Minutes - review and vote to accept minutes from October 24, 2023**

*A MOTION was made by Rolf Biggers and SECONDED by Tom Grella to accept the meeting minutes of October 24, 2023, as amended.*

*All were in favor.*

1. **Updates since October 24, 2023 meeting**

The Committee reviewed any update items since the October 24th meeting, including the site walk.

**Committee Discussion Items**

1. **Village Streets Project background**

Tracie Adams gave a brief history of this project. The Committee remarked on the successful site walk and the number of participants.

1. **Purpose & Progress**

Tracie Adams noted that the intention this evening is to move from the completion of Step 1 and 2 into Step 3.

**6. Step 3: Intersection Design**

Sam Fortier, CMA Engineers, Inc., reviewed proposed intersection designs in the Village with the Committee. He explained that he looked into teeing up the intersections, while reducing crossing routes as much as possible.

The Committee discussed options for the Amherst/Main/Davis/Carriage intersection. The group agreed that teeing up the intersection, along with recovering some of the asphalt and slowing traffic making this turn were good options.

The Committee discussed the Foundry/Davis intersection. Eric Slosek noted that this area receives a lot of school bus traffic, and he asked if the proposed grass pavers will hold up well. Mr. Fortier stated that he believes the pavers will hold up to the traffic well, but there could be issues with snow plowing in the winter. The Committee agreed that it like the proposed extension of the alternate surface material from Davis onto Foundry and tightening the turn radii for this intersection.

The Committee reviewed the proposed options for the Main Street/Pierce Lane intersection. The Committee agreed with creating T-intersections for Pierce Lane and the Carriage House driveway connecting to Main Street; reclaiming asphalt and returning it to green space, including planting a tree, was also approved.

The Committee discussed the intersection of Mack Hill Road/Jones/Dodge. The Committee agreed with the design which narrowed the streets, improved Dodge Road intersection geometry, and removed excess asphalt which was returned to green space. The design also included reducing corner radii when possible, especially on the Dodge Road side of Mack Hill. The Committee discussed traffic calming options available and progressively implementing them as needed. This included use of alternate surface material in the intersection, use of mountable median strips approaching the intersection, and use of a truck apron or raised curb to address cars driving through the grass section regained.

The Committee discussed the Boston Post Road/Main/School/Carriage intersection. Chris Buchanan noted how unnecessarily large these roads currently are. The Committee discussed the potential removal or angling of parking spaces outside of Moulton’s Market. Eric Slosek requested that the existing island in this area be removed, due to difficulty with snow plowing. Tom Grella suggested making this area into a heated surface.

**7. Objectives for future meetings**

The Committee reviewed a presentation for the November 20th meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Chris Buchanan suggested that the Town consider an action plan.

Will Ludt stated that he would like to make sure the presentation mentions that the Committee had to start from scratch, after it was determined that the information from Mobycon was not appropriate for the Town. The community felt that Mobycon was going in the wrong direction and so the Committee chose to move forward from scratch. Rolf Biggers noted that Mobycon presented the Town with many options, and this was pared back based on people with specific history regarding the Town. Chris Buchanan noted that some of the information from Mobycon, especially regarding the streetscape options, are exactly what the Committee has chosen to pursue.

The Committee considered other amendments and/or additions to the presentation.

**8. Future plans**

The Committee discussed when the plan and presentation would need to be completed, in order to present to the Board of Selectmen on November 20th. The Committee noted that it would then use its meeting on November 28th to consider any comments from the Board of Selectmen.

Will Ludt noted that he is not yet convinced that alternate materials are needed for all of the roads as discussed.

**9. Public Input Opportunity - please give name and address when come to microphone**

Jeanne Ludt, 3 School Street, stated that the complete list of guiding principles need to be included in the plan. Tracie Adams stated that it will be, though may be in the appendix of the document. Jeanne Ludt noted that so much of what has occurred during this process is due to the work of this group. The group should be giving itself more credit for the work done. The Committee did have to grow back to the drawing board and start from scratch to create solutions after receiving input from Mobycon.

Bill Veillette, 1 Pierce Lane, stated that he has heard concerns from some people that every street in Town will be paved with alternate materials and this may cause the Village to look urban. He agreed and urged the Committee not to state this as part of the vision. This would be too transformative from an aesthetic and character standpoint. From a traffic standpoint, it could allow people to be altered to there being something different about the area, but if all of the roads are made of alternate materials, this impact is lost. Amherst is viewed as elitist by other towns in the State. These grants are competitive, and the Committee needs to be clear that there are solid reasons for having certain areas considered for alternate materials. He suggested not putting items within the report that were not mentioned during one of these meetings or during the site walk. He stated that the Committee was asked to study “priority roads” that are not really priorities as much as they are the next roads to come up for road reconstruction. The real priority is Boston Post Road and the center of the Village. He suggested that the presentation and plan be placed on the Town website for review. He stated that he would pay for the postage needed to mail a letter to each citizen of the Village to make them aware of the upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting. He noted that the idea of underground conduits and faults should be considered. He suggested that the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that a police presence is still of interest to many. It would be nice if the Chief of Police showed up to these meetings each time as the DPW Director does. It does not make sense as to where the police place their priorities in terms of a presence in Town. The Committee will next have to consider the actual design phase for these projects, and the Board of Selectmen should build in public hearings and site walks for this process.

Will Ludt asked if the Town could delay applying for the grant for an additional year. Eric Slosek noted that this would likely cause delays in the road reconstruction process, as planned.

**Other Business**

**10. Adjournment**

*A MOTION was made by Kyle Coffey and SECONDED by Chris Buchanan to adjourn the meeting at 8:01PM.*

*All were in favor.*