Town Of Vinalhaven

MDOT Lanes Island Bridge Public Hearing

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

6:00 PM

Those present:

Janann Sherman

Penelope Lord

Dave Moyer

Bruce & Betsy Hopkins

George & Kay Kendrick

Deb Pixley

Micah Conklin

Hugh & Sue Martin

Steve Rosen

Kate Hannan

Pam Johnson

Ed Hirst

Dinah Moyer

Don Burns

Larry Brady

(? Unknown from Rockport)

Selectmen: Eric Gasperini, Pam Alley, Donald Poole, Jake Thompson, and Phil Crossman

Town Manager: Andrew J. Dorr; and Deputy Town Clerk: Elizabeth Bunker

MeDOT: Peter Perkins, Joel Kittredge, and Robin Dusty (scribe)

Eric Gasperini opened the meeting and gave the floor to Peter Perkins who presented an overview of the project since taking comments from the meeting this summer.

The current Lane’s Island Bridge is rated at 16.5 (out of 100), and at a condition 5 (out of 9).

They have designed this as a preservation project vs. replacement - focusing on stabilizing and safety improvements.

The proposed work: stabilize abutments by grouting (pumping grout into cracks above and below the water line), clean out and caulking joints in the bridge, sealing the concrete decking of the bridge, restore the granite shoulders, and replace guardrail (remove the cable guardrail).

The schedule is for a 2019 construction in conjunction with work to the dolphins and fenders at the ferry slip. They anticipate the road to be temporarily closed (for a max of 8 hours) at some time during the work. Most of the work will be done from land, but anticipate some vessel being in the water for work done below the water line. There was a comment from Kay Kendrick to use local granite grout if possible for shoulder work.

Peter presented options for guardrails. He stressed that because of the angle of the road a cable rail system would not be available. He presented the standard ‘W’ guardrail and a “box” rail that is not commonly used in Maine, but is available in NY.

George Kendrick thanked Peter and Joel for taking comments from the last meeting into consideration on this design. He expressed his concern with snow accumulation on the bridge. With the existing cable system snow is able to blow over the bridge, but with a guardrail system he is concerned with snow collecting on the bridge.

There was discussion on painting guardrails to blend better with the scenery.

There was discussion on coloring the grout used in the structure (between granite blocks) - by a show of hands majority was in favor of a dark grout to resemble shadows between the blocks.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:57. Regular Selectmen meeting immediately following.