

Selectboard Minutes 6-25-19 Special Meeting

Location: Band shell at Volunteers Green, then moving to rip rap installation behind the Town well for the last 15 minutes of the meeting.

Called to Order: 5:30pm

Present: Christy Witters, David Sander, Katie Mather, Josh Arneson, Judy Rosovsky, Harland Stockwell, Jon Kart, Tyler Billingsley, Jessie Heiser, Gary Bressor

David Sander called the meeting to order and asked for public comment. There was none. He then turned the meeting over to Tyler Billingsley to discuss the rip rap that was installed near the bridge and band shell at Volunteers' Green and the rip rap installed near the Town well site.

Tyler gave an overview of the project. He explained that large rocks were placed first and then covered up by smaller rocks on top. He is satisfied with how the installation has held up over the winter and spring. Noting that the rocks are still in place. He noted that the canoe access was widened during construction and that the access has actually gained material as sand has settled on top of it. At the top of the bank the rip rap stops and there is a transition to ground. A netting was placed here to encourage vegetation to grow. Part of that netting has peeled back and Tyler will ask the construction company to repair it. Though, this is not a large problem as vegetation has already started to take hold in this area and the netting is designed to biodegrade within a few years anyway.

Tyler noted that during construction they removed small and dying trees while keeping the larger and healthier trees whose root systems help to lock in the bank.

Katie asked about planting shrubs.

Harland replied that they would need dirt to grow in.

Jon said trees hold up better in ice flows than shrubs which could be damaged more easily by ice.

Tyler indicated that prior to the rip rap there was a lot of undermining on the bank.

Tyler noted that prior to rip rap installation a lot of the bank had been lost. He measured the distance to the bank from old bridge pilings and noted that distance had increased over the years.

Jon said he is interested in planting trees on top of the bank where the rip rap stops and vegetation is starting to take hold. He also said the Friends of the Winooski may look at adding stairs to enhance the canoe access. He will come to the Selectboard with proposals.

Judy asked about erosion at the Farr Farm, across the river, and if anyone had talked to them about steps they could take to mitigate erosion.

Jon said the Farr's had not been open to discussion about erosion.

Katie asked what the State was doing about run off from farmland and erosion.

Jon said the Agency of Agriculture supports farmers in preventing erosion.

No one had an answer regarding run off.

Judy asked why the rip rap installation became longer than what was depicted in an initial study.

Tyler explained that he connected two segments where he saw erosion.

Judy asked about the downstream implications from the rip rap.

Tyler has not looked downstream to see if there have been any consequences.

David said he is particularly concerned about this area because the curve of the river causing erosion near the band stand and the bridge.

Jon said he and a group are looking at planting more trees downstream to try to prevent erosion.

There was a general discussion about issues both downstream and upstream with the river widening and creation of sand bars.

Jon asked about creating some platforms on the rip rap next to the canoe area for kids to stand on as he sees kids playing on the rough rip rap already.

Tyler said that adding in flat stones is possible.

David asked if there is any wear and tear that we should watch for.

Tyler said that any failure would be pretty obvious.

David asked if there was a concern about undermining.

Tyler stated he is not concerned about undermining of the rip rap.

There was a general discussion about rip rap that was installed near the well site scores of years ago and how it is still in place decades later.

Tyler indicated that the bank near the bridge had started to erode and was getting worse. Once one spot opens up the problem just accelerates. The rip rap has stopped this erosion.

Meeting group walked to the well site

Tyler gave a brief history of the well site and indicated that they saw the old rip rap was still in place when they put in the new rip rap. There was a hole that had started to erode and the new rip rap filled this in. Tyler was satisfied with how this rip rap has held up after its first winter and spring.

Katie asked how long the rip rap will be expected to last.

Tyler indicated it should last 50+ years.

Christy motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Katie. Vote 3-0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:24pm