

**Board of Selectmen**

Dale Harmon, Chairman  
Douglas Burnham, Vice Chair  
Charles R. Cunningham  
Stephen W. Ham  
Steven Lewis

**Town Manager**

Daniel Bryer Jr.



**Town of Boothbay  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Wednesday March 9, 2016  
7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**Present:** Dale Harmon, Charles Cunningham, Steven Lewis and Town Manager Dan Bryer

Because of the large turnout at the last Selectmen's meeting – tonight's meeting is taking place at the YMCA in Boothbay Harbor.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Proposed Rt. 27 changes presentation:** Steve Malcom started the meeting by stating he was a Boothbay resident, businessman and member of the Joint Economic Development Committee. As such he recognized there was a traffic problem at Boothbay Center and went to Mr. Coloumbe and asked him to fund a study of the traffic. Tonight is a presentation of that study and proposed changes.

Mark Lenters an engineer working with MDOT did the study and presented the findings. Mr. Lenters said the main goal is to improve safety. He did a slide presentation showing problems, statistics, past plans and future proposals.

Mr. Lenters gave a brief segment on what he called Rotary 101, he explained that pedestrian safety is higher than with traffic signs or lights, crashes are down 49% and injuries down 67%.

After Mr. Lenter's slide presentation Dale Harmon opened the floor up for questions from the audience. He stressed this was a Boothbay Selectmen's meeting and asked that Boothbay residents be allowed to speak first.

The first question raised was about the traffic around Country Club Road and the gas station and the back-up in that area. Steve Landry from MDOT said he doesn't feel the back-up in that area will be bad, that the traffic will be constantly moving.

Dwight Switzer, a member of the Rotary Club said the Rotary hold their annual auction on the Common every year and they create quite a traffic problem. He would like that taken into consideration with any traffic plans.

It was pointed out that the new sidewalk and crossing patterns will help with that.

The next question asked had to do with the funding and the timing of this project. Steve Landry talked about MDOT's Business Partnership Initiative. This is a plan where MDOT can put in 1/3 of the cost up to a million dollars, the Town and any Businesses could put in the other 2/3 of the cost. It would be a combined project of all three entities with the Town as the leader. As to just how the money partnership would align and the timing of the project, it is way too early to tell.

Bruce McDonald asked what the decision making process would be going forward. Dale said if the Town decides to be the initiator of this project and they wanted money from the taxpayers, they would need a vote from the tax payers, if the town does not want to ask the tax payers for money, technically the

Selectmen could make the decision on their own. Mr. McDonald then had questions about the State spending money and why they would or could.

Tammy Steinmetz asked about the total cost of the project and was told it could be 3 to 4 million dollars. Ms. Steinmetz also talked about the parking at the common and how parking has to be considered and how the new turning lane by County Club Road is a nightmare. She asked if the Ambulance was going to be relocated. Steve Malcolm said a new building has been talked about but nothing has been finalized.

Other concerns raised were about signage and if it would be back far enough to alert people before they come upon the rotary. Another concern was the number of lanes.

It was suggested that the entrance to the Country Club should be moved. That the roundabout should be moved to the monument, the current plan does not solve anything. It was also stated that this project should be voted on by all the citizens.

Bill Cullina, a Southport resident who works for the Botanical Gardens said the traffic has been an issue for the Gardens and as they progress and grow it will become more of a problem. He said to be open to Solutions.

Kathleen Marty questioned if property would need to be acquired to move Corey Lane and was told yes. Ms. Marty talked about the 2/3 partnership that MDOT would not control. MDOT will not be able to do this project without the partnership of the Town and Businesses. If easements cannot be obtained then the project goes away. The earliest a town vote would be taken on this would be November.

Elsie Freeman said there needs to be a process where the Townspeople feel involved.

Dick Shaw said he likes Boothbay just the way it is and it should be left alone. He stated that traffic is not a problem. Mr. Shaw said the town already said no to this a few years ago, they actually voted twice on it. Why do the Selectmen not take no to mean no?

A Boothbay Harbor resident said there is a traffic problem and it is only going to get worse. Maybe this plan is not ideal but something needs to be done. He said he would prefer a roundabout to sitting still in traffic. It said this is a good chance to look at parking and to fix the problem.

Mary Neal said this is a real opportunity. Ms. Neal said you cannot deny there is a problem and it will not go away on its own. This a real opportunity for people to join together and to help.

Alice Much said she would like to see citizens, as stakeholders, be part of the discussions.

Ron Ginger said there will be more people and there is a traffic problem. He is not one to rush to change things but there is only no change when you are dead.

Kate Winslow said she would like to know the bigger plan. What is Mr. Coloumbe doing with the other properties he has bought?

Scott Larson said he was a seasonal business owner both in Boothbay Harbor and Southport and he thinks this is a good thing. This is not about 1 man it is about all of the seasonal businesses who only have 22 weeks to make a living and need to make it as easy as possible for their customers. This plan is not the whole solution but it could be part of it.

Sandy Spaulding talked about the boatyard on Southport and how traffic impacts on their employees. It is important to have a solution. Young people like to bicycle and this would help with that aspect of traffic.

Tim Hodgdon said he feels this is a good project for the Town and he is behind it. Mr. Hodgdon said the problem will not get better by itself. He said he has talked with Knickerbocker Group about being able to get large boats through the roundabout and they have been very receptive to his concerns.

Martin Page said he is against the Roundabout although he likes the change to Corey Lane. He talked about Motorcycle groups and how they consider a Roundabout a circle of death. Mr. Page said elderly people get dizzy on rotaries and we have a lot of elderly people in this area. Mr. Page also talked about accidents and the trouble with the turning lanes by Country Club Road.

**Adjourn:** At 8:45PM Chuck Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Steve Lewis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Minutes submitted by  
Sherry Tibbetts  
Secretary