

Pedestrian Bridge Meeting

March 21, 2014

5-7 pm

Those present were Tom McKay, Charlie Ellis, Susie Ellis, John Moore, Diane Barrett, Ed Dittmer, Tommy Hartzog, Valerie Hoffman, Jim Walters, Janet Walters, Lee Armstrong, Mike Lumpkin, Blaine Cox, Veryl Lynn Cox, George Wittmer, Hope Wittmer, Jim Proctor, Pat Cook, Alice Garrard, Danny Holland, Bob Keith, Vic Knight, and Shannon Baldwin

Vic Knight presented the two posters depicting the site plan and elevations of the bridge concept. He also presented an animation of the same. Slides answering the question "Why build the bridge?" were reviewed with those present.

Shannon Baldwin facilitated a group discussion regarding the "Likes" and "Concerns/Recommendations" of the group relative to the plans and slides presented. The following represents the group responses and discussion.

The "Likes"

- Balustrades [they mimic those on the existing bridges and new town seal]
- Classic look [in harmony with existing original designs in town]
- Arches [in keeping with existing bridges, existing architectural motifs in the Town Center, and flowering bridge logo]
- Facilities for weddings and toilets [guests need toilets out in the park and weddings need additional support]
- Connectivity [bridge provides a way to connect opposing shores and completes loop around the bay giving pedestrians a way to circulate]
- Entertainment facility [need this for the town and in the park]
- Iconic Look [postcard worthy as conceived]
- Destination [the bridge itself becomes a thing and place to visit]
- Lighted at night [appropriately placed lighting will beautify at night]
- View of/from the beach [promotes beach and its activities as well as bridge from the beach]
- Encourages walkers [facilitates pedestrian activity]
- Facilitates access to existing assets
- Facilitates access to Haynes Hill

The "Concerns/Recommendations"

- Conflicting use [needs to have a through way/pass so that pedestrians and weddings do not interfere with one another]
- Wheelchair accessibility [if it is accessible for wheelchairs and strollers, then it works for everyone. As depicted it is not accessible to either.]

- Bridge surface [should have an aged look rather than bright white]
- Cost [2 million, 1 million dollar structure will not get built anytime soon. Cost must be reasonable.....and lower]
- Walking surface [surface should be finished so that it does not cause slips/falls]
- No look off/out points on bridge itself [people need to be able to stop and gaze and not impede pedestrian movement]
- Color [too white as presented, should be muted]
- How achievable is it? Will it drag out if costs are too high? [May not be achievable as designed because of costs]
- Competing projects [May have other projects as important or more important to complete. Only a finite amount of dollars available. Make sure we look for grants.]
- Westside foundation [Morse Park is fill area and may not be suitable for certain loads relative to restroom facilities and large bridge abutment.]
- Site plan depicts trails on private property [concept plan as drawn may cause concern among some property owners. Should be tweaked for final presentation in April.]
- Areas for sitting [plans need to accommodate/show areas for sitting]
- Impacts on Dredging [study possible impacts on dredging where the bridge will be placed]
- Impacts on environment [work with Environmental Management Officer regarding these issues]
- Lighting [up lighting needs to be appropriately located as well as lighting for pathways]
- Designate arches [may need to designate arches for boat traffic]
- Carefully coordinate construction [so that it does not negatively impact use of bay and Lake Lure Tours]
- Adjacent to spoils area [spoils areas are unsightly; spoils areas should possibly be removed]
- Floodplain impacts [on constructions and use of restrooms, dressing room, etc.]

The next meeting will be held fourth week in April. For now, please mark your calendars for April 24th, 3-5 pm, Lake Lure Town Hall. This will be the last meeting before we send an RFP to design-build bridge construction firms. We are moving to secure designs and costs for the bridge from various companies to feed into the town's capital improvement projects list.