

Access Road Feasibility Under Study

Access Road, From Page 1

access road. Lehan said the right pitch might persuade state officials to allow a way "that would create the funding source to be able to provide an access road."

Lehan suggested that Town Administrator Jack Hathaway could be authorized to make the approach to state officials, though he noted it's a decision for the Norfolk School Building Committee.

"What is the harm to making that approach?" Lehan said.

Since school building projects often include generous budgets for contingencies, it's not uncommon for school projects to come in under budget, which in the past has allowed school building committees in many towns to make substantial additions to a project as it nears completion.

But Beth Gilbert, a member of the School Building Committee, noted during the ad hoc access road committee meeting this past Wednesday night that the building committee was planning to cut on the order of \$1 million from the project late this week. "So the notion that there would be sufficient funds at the end of the project, or at the beginning of the project, to commit to that is highly unlikely," Gilbert said.

Tomaszewski acknowledged the money problem alone could kill the access road.

"I think our charter is to find is there a possibility of doing this. If we can't, we can't. One of the toughest things to do is find the \$110,000," Tomaszewski said. "... We don't have \$110,000 sitting around anywhere. So we're going to have to be very creative in how we try to do something."

Access road committee members are also studying whether the frontage on Rockwood Road is wide enough, what the effect on public safety would be of building versus not building the access road, estimates of truck traffic from the construction project, the groundwater and water table in the area, and the costs and other practical considerations of maintaining the road.

The committee includes a Boardman Street resident who supports the access road as a way to relieve pressure on Boardman Street and a Malcolm Street resident who opposes the access road over concerns on the effect to her home and neighborhood.

The access road would go through Bicentennial Park between Norfolk Grange Hall and a home on Rockwood Road.

Among the items committee members are studying are the impact of an access road to the Grange and the home on Rockwood Road; and the impact to homes on Boardman Street if the access road isn't built.

Town officials for the most part are in favor of at least a temporary access road during construction, chiefly out of concerns for safety.

Robert Bullock, the town's building commissioner, said during the access road committee meeting that an access road is needed during construction because of the tremendous amount of material coming onto the site.

"I've expressed from the beginning that I think there's going to be a lot more traffic than a lot of people realize through this neighborhood," Bullock said.

He estimates that close to 22,000 yards will be brought onto the site just for the building and 4,000 to 8,000 yards for the septic system.

"You're talking about an awful lot of material that's going to be coming into this site," Bullock said. "The tractor trailer trucks are going to be coming in pretty much nonstop at least for the first few months. So given that — and these trucks are going to be rumbling past all the classrooms — I think it would behoove us to get it away from the school as much as possible, even though the construction of this is going to be right up tight to the back section of the school anyways. But there's a lot of material to be brought in there. And to be bringing it all through that neighborhood I think is going to be excessive."

Remo "Butch" Vito, the town's public works director, said he expects the "hundreds and hundreds" of trucks needed for the school project would worsen the condition of Boardman Street and also jeopardize the old water main that runs under the street.

"I think the deterioration of Boardman Street might be speeded up by this project, and then that's going to be a cost back to the town to repair it when it's all done," Vito said.

The next meeting of the ad hoc access road committee is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, August 5.

The committee is expected to meet a third and final time in mid-August to finalize findings and recommendations to selectmen.

Town officials are hoping to make a decision about the access road in time to include it or rule it out for contractors bidding on the school project, which they hope gets under way in earnest in October. The new elementary school is projected to open in September 2012.

Norfolk in Brief

Bridge Grant Still Alive

The bridge to nowhere could be going somewhere if state officials approve the first part of a grant this fall.

The town's public works director, Remo "Butch" Vito, told selectmen last week that state officials may allow the town to divide into two parts a proposed bridge over the railroad tracks extending Boardman Street into the commuter rail parking lot.

In 2009 town officials had a cost estimate of \$3.15 million to build the bridge a related roadway.

The idea is to siphon off commuters from Franklin who park in Norfolk and take the commuter rail before they ever reach the town center. Supporters say the bridge could lessen traffic in the town center and therefore spur commercial development of that area.

The cost is more than what the state allows for Public Works Economic Development grants (known as PWED), but Vito told selectmen last week that state officials may allow Norfolk a grant to build the road in one year and a second grant to build the bridge the year after that.

Town officials can use mitigation funds contributed by a developer for the town's portion of the project, Vito said. The mitigation funds can only be used for projects in Norfolk Center.

Vito said the town can build extra parking spaces for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority commuter rail parking lot, since the road from the bridge would take some existing commuter rail parking spaces away. The town can also rezone some nearby properties as commercial in hopes of spurring commercial development, Vito told the selectmen during the working-session board meeting Tuesday, July 13.

Selectman Rob Garrity, who has been skeptical of the bridge project, wondered whether the developer's mitigation funds could be used elsewhere.

"Is there any other use for this mitigation money?" Garrity asked. "So we can't use it outside that district. Is there anything else in that district that this would be better spent for?"

Vito, who has been pushing for the bridge for several years, sees it as an important piece in trying to increase economic development in Norfolk.

Town Administrator Jack Hathaway asked how much the town might have to pay for the second portion of the project, meaning the bridge. Vito said perhaps \$200,000 to \$300,000.

Vito said he should find out if the state approves the road portion of the project this coming September.

"There is a risk, though. We could build the first phase and not get the PWED the second phase," Hathaway said.

That would presumably leave the town with a road to nowhere.

Vito said he hopes the town applies for the bridge grant from the state in June 2011.

Car Break-In on Kingsbury Road

A resident on Kingsbury Road lost \$30 and a pair of sunglasses to a thief who broke into the resident's unlocked Ford Mustang this week, police said.

The resident reported the break-in Sunday, July 20, saying the incident appears to have taken place overnight, said Norfolk Police Lieutenant Jon Carroll.

Police: Crash Victim Drunk

A 43-year-old Franklin woman appeared to be operating under the influence of alcohol when her car hit a tree on the portion of Route 115 known as North Street earlier this week, police said.

The woman lost consciousness after the crash and was taken to Norwood Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, said Norfolk Police Lieutenant Jon Carroll.

The woman smelled of alcohol, her speech was impaired and police found several wine bottles under the driver's seat and in the back of her black 2002 Kia Sport, Carroll said.

Police intend to charge her with operating under the influence of alcohol, marked lanes violation, and driving with an expired license, Carroll said.

That's Some Diet

A man stopped for an expired inspection sticker this week told a Norfolk police officer he was a man who actually weighs about 200 pounds more than he does, police said.

The 28-year-old Randolph man appeared to be hiding something when Detective Nate Fletcher came up to the car, said Norfolk Police Lieutenant Jon Carroll.

That something turned out to be a small amount of marijuana.

Since possession of less than an ounce of marijuana is no longer a crime in Massachusetts, it didn't cause the driver as much trouble as what he did next.

He said he didn't have his driver's license with him but he claimed to be a 25-year-old man with the unlikely last name of "Excellent."

When Fletcher ran the name and date of birth that the man gave, a photo of a man came up on the computer in the police cruiser. But the photo showed a huge disparity in appearance between the driver, who weighs about 165 pounds, and the man the driver claimed to be, who weighs a lot more than that, Carroll said.

The driver turned out to be a man who had a suspended driver's license and three default warrants, including one for refusing to identify himself.

The man was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, subsequent offense; and being a motor vehicle driver refusing to identify himself to a police officer.

The incident took place at 6:13 p.m. Tuesday, July 20 on Rockwood Road.

This Isn't The Way I Remembered Home

A resident on Fleetwood Drive returned home from the weekend to find nothing stolen but plenty of evidence of a break-in, police said.

See Briefs, Page 3

Norfolk Community League Announces Date for Norfolk Casino Night Gala

Contributed to *The Norfolk Boomerang*

Please save the date for the Town of Norfolk Casino Night Gala presented by the Norfolk Community League on Saturday, September 11, 2010, at the Four Points Sheraton in Norwood.

Dinner - Dancing - Silent & Live Auctions - Vegas-style gaming! This community-wide event is NCL's largest fund-raiser to benefit the Town. Everyone's invited!

For more information or for sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.norfolkcommunityleague.org or contact Sarah Logie at selogie@gmail.com or 508-528-4220. Hope to see you there!



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