

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

Monday, October 23, 2023

6:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Douglass, Edes, Filson, Segrist, Storey-King and Vail

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Filson, seconded by Councilor Vail, to accept the October 10, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

Thank you to Councilor Edes for the donation of moose meat to the food pantry.

Thank you to Councilor Copp for the donation of a pig to the food pantry from the 4-H auction at the Cumberland Fair.

Thank you to Councilor Vail for the donation of his Town Council pay checks to the food pantry.

The regional cross-country meet was held this past Saturday and Recreation Director Peter Bingham did a fantastic job of organizing the event.

The Main Street sidewalk project continues. The crosswalks will get painted this week and that is the last thing to get done this season. In the spring, granite curbing will be installed around the cemetery.

The road acceptance for Peaceful Way will be tabled this evening. Some of the documents needed were not ready for tonight's meeting.

The Lands & Conservation Commission will meet with the Town Council in workshop at the next meeting to discuss adopting a policy to support grassland bird nesting success by delaying mowing at Twin Brook and the fields at Stiles Way until July 15th each year.

He had a good meeting with Foley's Gym last week. They hope to go before the Planning Board in December and possibly break ground in April.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

No public discussion

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

23 – 118 To hear a presentation from Gorrill-Palmer Engineers and receive public comment re: a roundabout on Route 100 at Skillin Road and Blackstrap Road, and to authorize the Town Manager to submit the final report to Maine Department of Transportation.

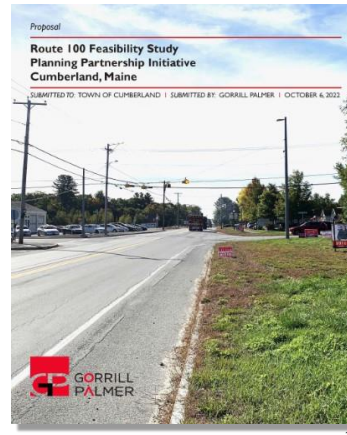
Don Ettinger of Gorrill Palmer Engineers presented the following:

Cumberland Route 100 Study

Safety & Economic Development
Improvements

Council / Public Meeting

October 23, 2023



Study Team

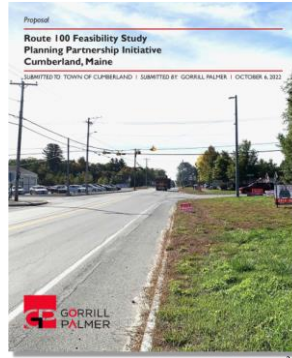
(Planning Partnership Initiative)

Consultant

- Gorill Palmer
- VHB
- Viewshed (TJD&A)

Municipality

- Cumberland
- MaineDOT
- Stephen Cole



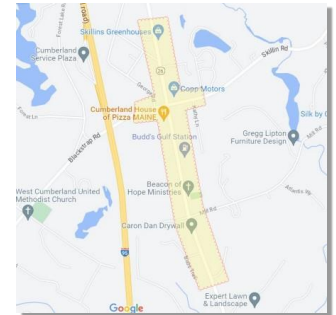
Study Limits

Gray Road (Route 100/26)

- Skillins Greenhouse to Castle Rock Drive
- Length = 1.06 Miles

Blackstrap Road (to MTA)

Skillin Road (to Tammy Lane)



Study Scope

(Transportation Planning Study)

- Traffic Operations
- Safety
- Controlling Speeds
- Access Management
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations
- Economic Development



Traffic Analysis

- Current Year – 2023
- Design Year - 2045
- No Build Alt.
- Unsignalized Alt.
- Signalized Alt.
- Roundabout Alt.



Land Use Growth Projections

- Inputs into Traffic Modeling
- Reasonable Growth Assumptions
- Input from Town



Traffic Analysis – Findings

Table 3: Capacity Analysis – Comparison

Approach	2023 Existing				2045 No-Build				2045 Build - Signal				2045 Build - Roundabout			
	Volume ^a	Delay ^a	LOS ^b	95 th Queue ^c	Volume	Delay	LOS	95 th Queue	Volume	Delay	LOS	95 th Queue	Volume	Delay	LOS	95 th Queue
Morning Peak																
Eastbound	316	27	LOS D	360	332	119	LOS F	1,634	438	28	LOS C	313	470	19	LOS C	160
Westbound	144	13	LOS B	132	187	24	LOS C	215	186	33	LOS C	282	201	6	LOS A	23
Northbound	135	5	LOS A	84	239	9	LOS A	189	239	22	LOS C	329	251	6	LOS A	31
Southbound	368	5	LOS A	101	163	6	LOS A	193	541	21	LOS C	482	404	11	LOS B	128
Total	969	13	LOS B		1,321	17	LOS E		1,464	25	LOS C		1,526	32	LOS B	
Evening Peak																
Eastbound	155	21	LOS C	222	196	211	LOS F	1,626	304	31	LOS C	378	325	7	LOS A	43
Westbound	180	21	LOS C	183	221	182	LOS F	1,562	264	23	LOS C	389	283	17	LOS C	81
Northbound	576	7	LOS A	385	808	13	LOS B	715	715	40	LOS D	757	935	29	LOS D	853
Southbound	213	6	LOS A	133	303	17	LOS C	368	303	17	LOS B	319	326	9	LOS A	48
Total	1,124	11	LOS B		1,589	62	LOS F		1,688	31	LOS C		1,869	20	LOS C	



Traffic Analysis

- Signal Warrants
- Current Year – 2023
- Design Year - 2045



Don Blinger, PE
Civil Engineer
380 South Street, Suite 200
South Portland, ME 04106

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Civil Engineer
380 South Street, Suite 200
South Portland, ME 04106

Date: October 20, 2023
Project #: 2400100
To: MaineDOT
From: Don Blinger, PE
Subject: Signal Warrant Analysis for Route 100 at Blacktop Road and Sibley Road in Cumberland, Maine

Memorandum

VIA was requested to complete a traffic signal warrant analysis for the intersection of Route 100 with Blacktop Road and Sibley Road in Cumberland, Maine as part of the Planning Partnership Initiative study for the town of Cumberland. The following memorandum summarizes the methodology and results of the analysis.

Signal Warrant Analysis

A traffic signal warrant analysis was completed based on the new warrants outlined by the 2009 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Chapter 4C. The new warrants are as follows:

- Warrant 1 – Eight Hour Vehicular Volume
- Warrant 2 – Four Hour Vehicular Volume
- Warrant 3 – Peak Hour
- Warrant 4 – Pedestrian Volumes
- Warrant 5 – School Crossing
- Warrant 6 – Coordinated Signal System
- Warrant 7 – Grade Separation
- Warrant 8 – Roadway Network
- Warrant 9 – Intersection Near a Grade Crossing

Warrants 1, 2, and 3 are based on the number of vehicles moving through the intersection and are most commonly used. Warrants 4-9 are based on other characteristics of the intersection and surrounding roadway network. The intersection currently is not warranted for a traffic signal. A traffic signal warrant analysis for 2023 is attached.

Traffic Volumes

Warrants 1-3 are based on the hourly volume of traffic moving through the intersection on an average day. The analysis year for the intersection is 2045. Turning movement counts were completed at the intersection of Route 100 with Blacktop Road and Sibley Road by MaineDOT on Friday, October 20, 2018 from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Detailed counts are shown in the attached spreadsheet. The following summarizes the adjustments made to the turning movement counts to estimate the future volumes that may be experienced on the average day in 2045.

Seasonal Adjustment

MaineDOT weekly group-mean factors were used to adjust the traffic volumes to those anticipated to be experienced on an average day. The turning movement counts collected during the week of October 21, an adjustment of 0.92 was applied to the raw volumes. Traffic volumes are attached as an appendix.

Annual Growth

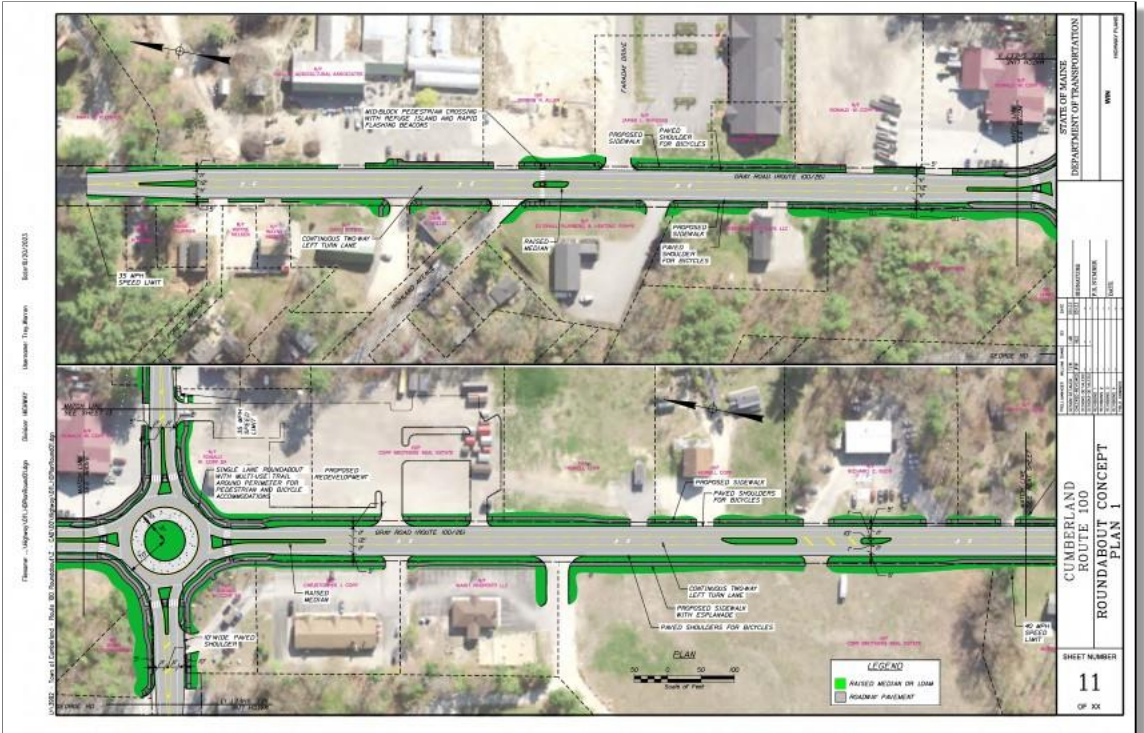
In addition to a seasonal adjustment, an annual growth rate was applied to estimate the traffic volumes that will be experienced during the analysis year. The signal warrant analysis is being completed for 2041 and an annual growth rate of 0.5% per year has been applied to the seasonally adjusted volumes, as directed by MaineDOT staff.

Total	1155
Warrant 1	553
Warrant 2	553
Warrant 3	553

Warrant 1 is not met
Warrant 2 is not met
Warrant 3 is not met

Engineer: Don Blinger, PE
Reviewer: Don Blinger, PE
Date: October 20, 2023

10



Concept Plans (roundabout)

11



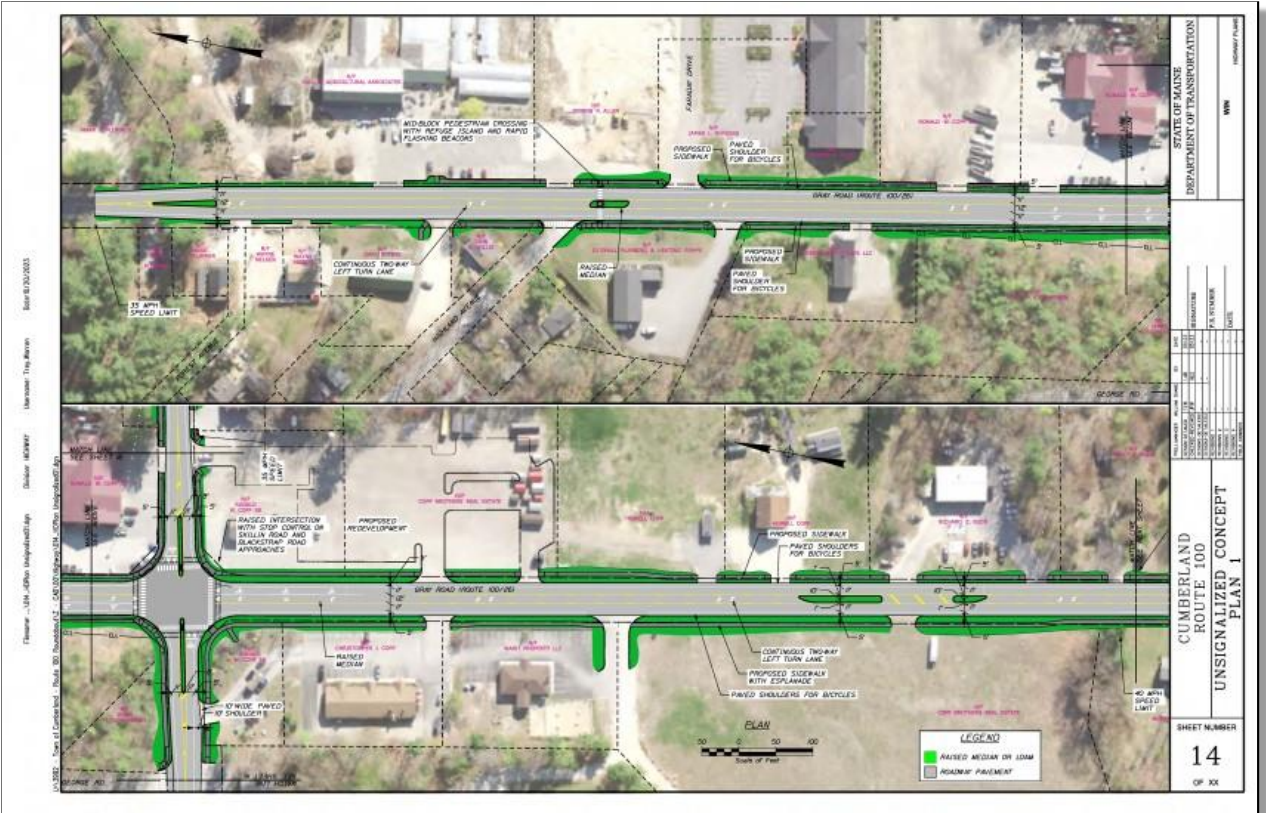
Concept Plans (roundabout)

12



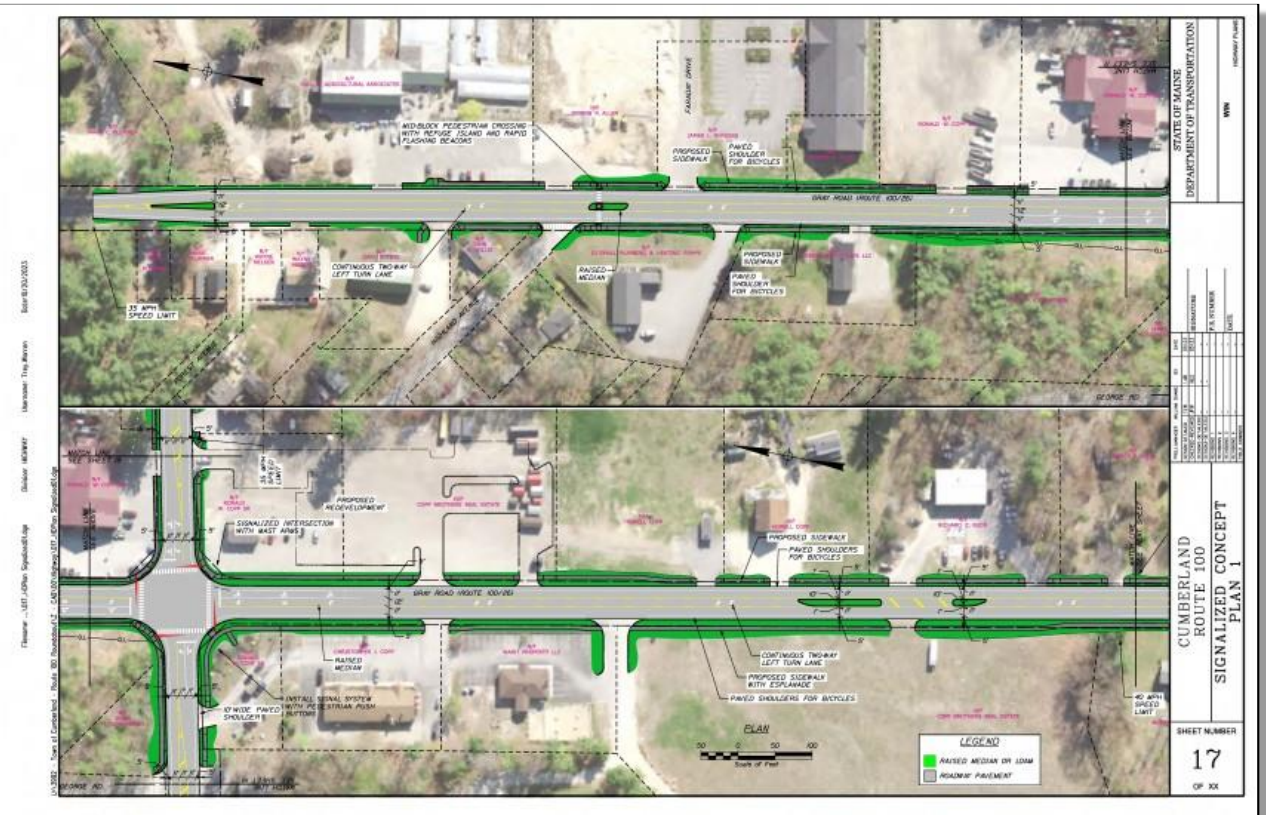
Concept Plans (roundabout)

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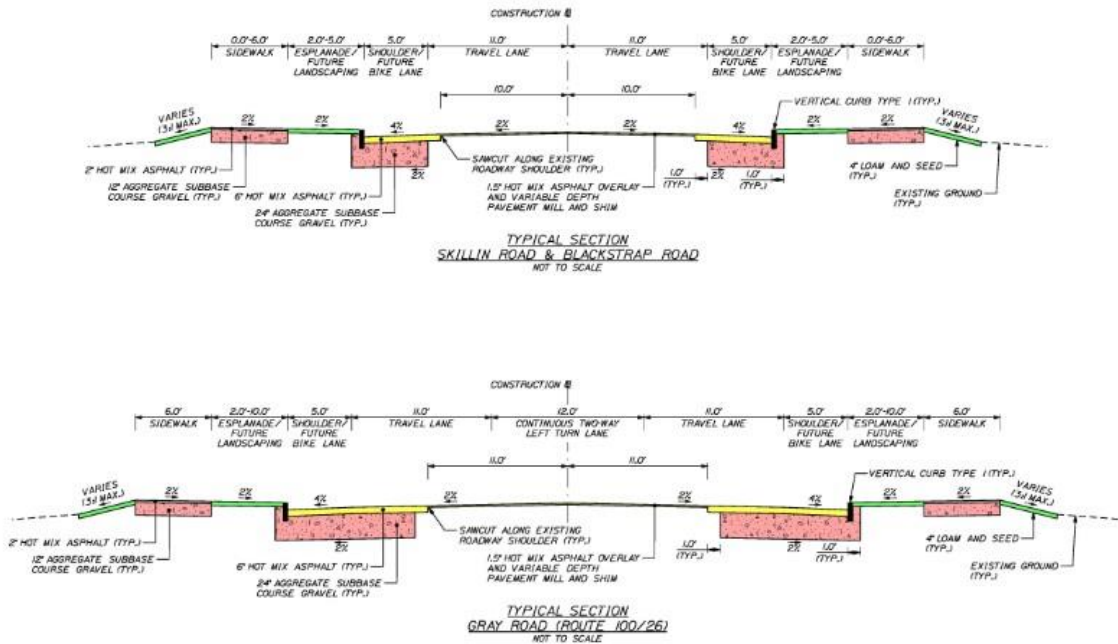
Concept Plans (Unsignalized)

14



Concept Plans (Signalized)

15



Prior Comments

- ✓ Cost of options
- ✓ Extending sidewalks
- ✓ Mid-block crossing at Highland
- ✓ BruThru access concerns
- ✓ Gulf Gas access concerns
- ✓ Size of roundabout
- ✓ Property impacts
- ✓ Short term safety concerns



17

Project Costs

- Roundabout – \$12.4M
- Unsignalized – \$10.7M
- Signalized - \$11.2M
- *Total Costs (construction, engineering, inspection, right of way)*



18

Evaluation Matrix

- Compare Alternatives to NO BUILD
- Compare Alternatives to Purpose & Need Statement
- Roundabout scores highest
- Roundabout meets P/N



	Alternative #1	Alternative #2	Alternative #3	No Build
CRITERIA	Roundabout	Unsignalized with Raised Intersection	Signalized	Do Nothing
Traffic Operations (LOS AM/PM)	LOS B/C	LOS E/F	LOS C/C	LOS E/F
Meets Warrants in current year	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Maintains Mobility (vehicles)	Yes	No	Yes	No
Improves Safety (vehicles)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Improves Safety (peds, bicycles)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pedestrian & Bicycle Accommodations	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Encourages Village Scale Redevelopment	Yes	Less	Yes	No
Improves on Traffic Calming (speeds)	Yes	Yes	Less than others	No
Creates Confusing Geometry	No (single lane roundabout)	Yes	No	No
Provides Access Management	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Property Impacts	Slightly more	Same as Alt 3	Same as Alt 2	None
Provides for Gateway Opportunities	Yes	Not really	Less than Alt #1	No
Total Project Costs (Construction, PE, CE, ROW)	\$12.4M	\$10.7M	\$11.2M	None
MEET PURPOSE & NEED	YES	NO	NO	NO

Renderings (Roundabout)



Renderings (Roundabout)



Renderings (Roundabout)



Next Steps

- ✓ Public Input
- ✓ Council Input
- ✓ Draft Report
- ✓ Review & Comment
- ✓ Final Report



23

Chairman Segrist asked for any comments from the Council.

Councilor Douglass asked if there have been any studies done as to how roundabouts affect the businesses around them.

Mr. Ettinger said that goal is to make it as business friendly as possible, while also providing safety. There will be splitter island dividers that will separate movement in all directions, but traffic will be able to take left turns into businesses.

Councilor Filson asked if there is any data regarding emissions at roundabouts.

Jason Ready from Gorrill-Palmer said that he feels that emission reductions with a roundabout is very likely because vehicles aren't sitting there idling.

Councilor Edes said that the scope of this project was expanded a mile in each direction. Why?

Mr. Ettinger said that was part of the scope of the project as requested in the RFP from the Town in order to create a village feel and provide pedestrian and bicycle accommodation.

Councilor Storey-King asked what kind of drainage challenges there might be and where will the water go.

Doug Reynolds of Gorrill-Palmer said that back in 2002 that area was improved, and an entire subsurface storm drainage system was added. Everything will be connected to that system.

Councilor Storey-King asked if there would be limitations on the access points for businesses. Currently, you can cut through Bru-Thru and get to the veterinary office.

Mr. Ettinger said that access is limited at the moment to each property, but in terms of internal connection points, that is a great idea, and he would encourage that.

Chairman Segrist asked for comments from the public.

Darryl Quinn of George Road said that with a roundabout, if you take a left or right onto Blackstrap Road, George Road is an immediate right turn. Will the roundabout impact George Road?

Mr. Ettinger said that George Road will not be affected.

Mr. Quinn said George Road does not have Town water and asked if a waterline could be installed before the road is paved. Most towns won't allow newly paved roads to be cut for a period of time without a cost.

Town Manager Shane said that the waterline already passes George Road. He asked Mr. Ettinger if the crosswalk could be moved back to George Road where more people will be crossing.

Lynda Jensen of West Cumberland said that she lives on the corner of Route 100 and Mill Road. She already had some of her property used when the waterline went in. She would like to know what is going to happen to her property with this project.

Mr. Ettinger said that he and Mrs. Jensen spoke at the neighborhood meeting back in May and a safety audit was done to look for areas that had safety concerns. The Mill Road intersection was one of them because the sight lines are not good. Their recommendation is to remove some trees to improve the intersection sight distance looking to the right from Mill Road. Mrs. Jensen's property is on the left side of Mill Road coming out of the intersection. The intent is to not impact her retaining wall and put the infrastructure in front of the retaining wall. The plans currently show a sidewalk and esplanade in front of the wall, but if you look at that area, there is not enough room for both. The road would have to be shifted to provide space for an esplanade or eliminate the esplanade. There is some landscaping and a fence there that may have to be moved and reset in order to improve the sight lines for vehicles trying to get out of Mill Road.

Town Manager Shane said that we will have to look very closely at this because there are also restraints on the other side of the street where we are very close to the right-of-way now.

Councilor Copp suggested building the end of Mill Road up a foot to a foot and a half. That would solve the problem and improve the sightlines.

Joyce Baughan of West Cumberland said that she has a question about unsignalized versus signalized. With unsignalized, we would have a raised intersection. Would that have to be removed if we were to get a signal 5 or 10 years down the road, or could it stay in place?

Mr. Ettinger said that he is not aware of any signalized intersections that are raised. He assumes that the raised section would have to come out.

Mary Weir of Pleasant Valley Road said that her concern is that if we put in a roundabout, she hopes that it will be wide enough for livestock trailers and gooseneck trailers. She was at the roundabout in Buxton and a lady got stuck in the middle of it and stopped traffic for an hour and a half.

Bruce Sherwin of Blanchard Road said that he is not aware of any raised intersections. Are there any?

Mr. Ettinger said that Gorrill-Palmer was involved in putting one in a high crash location in Auburn.

Mr. Sherwin said that the raised intersection sounds like a good idea. It will slow people down. He also likes the three-lane idea. We need a turn lane. He is not clear if this is a two-stage process. Are going to do these things to improve the safety of the intersection now and a roundabout later or is it all tied to a roundabout? If we do the safety improvements, we may determine that we don't need a roundabout.

Town Manager Shane said that the improvements that Mr. Ettinger was referring to in the immediate future is signage. The long-term improvements would be the unsignalized, signalized, and the roundabout. The difference with the signalized is that it's not going to get us there for at least another 20 to 25 years. The roundabout scored the best out of all three options.

Nicole Nevulis of Blanchard Road Extension said that she is in favor of the roundabout. It will make that area more walkable and more attractive, which is great. The community outside the immediate scope of the project (Skillin & Blanchard Road area) are going to want to walk to this destination. Is part of the overall bigger plan to make sure that people from these neighborhoods can walk safely down there?

Town Manager Shane said some years back, we widened Skillin Road and added paved shoulders. The addition of sidewalks would be up to the Town Council and future capital improvement planning.

Chairman Segrist closed the public hearing.

Councilor Storey-King said that she wants to be clear that the action this evening is to submit the report to Maine Department of Transportation. We are not authorizing spending 11.2 million dollars.

Councilor Copp said that he wants everyone to know that he will not gain huge amounts of money from this roundabout. The state already owns the islands in front of his shop. That happened 25 years ago. The Town has an easement on the land in front of the coffee shop. He will abstain from voting on this item.

Motion by Councilor Vail, seconded by Councilor Filson, to accept the report from Gorrill-Palmer Engineers and authorize the Town Manager to submit the final report to Maine Department of Transportation.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Copp abstained) MOTION PASSES

23 – 119 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on accepting Peaceful Way as a Town Road.

TABLED

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Vail, to table to November 13th.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

23 – 120 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on an Automobile Graveyard Permit for Cumberland Salvage for the period of November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024.

Councilor Storey-King said that she appreciated Cumberland Salvage re-submitting their application and for providing documentation about how they handle the disposal of fluids. They also volunteer to work with the State by providing sample test pits that check for ground contaminants. They are exemplary in going above and beyond to protect the aquifer.

Chairman Segrist opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment.

Motion by Councilor Storey-King, seconded by Councilor Edes, to approve the Automobile Graveyard Permit for Cumberland Salvage for the period of November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Copp abstained) MOTION PASSES

23 – 121 To consider adopting a Town Council Community Values Statement.

Councilor Filson said that we have been thinking about our community and our value sets, not only for the folks that live in Cumberland but also for those that are coming into Cumberland. She drafted a statement that looks at a lot of holistic values and has a lot of discussions with different community members. The statement reads:

The Town of Cumberland is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community for all.

Discrimination, in any form, has no place within our borders, and we vehemently reject and condemn any acts of prejudice or discrimination.

We believe every individual, whether a resident or visitor, should be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, religion, ancestry or national origin, age, physical or mental disability, or any other characteristic. We are dedicated to upholding and protecting the rights and well-being of all, and we will not tolerate discrimination or harassment of any kind within the Town.

Our strength as a community lies not only in what unites us but also in our uniqueness; we celebrate each individual's contributions and perspectives. Ensuring Cumberland is a place where everyone can thrive and enjoy a high quality of life, free from discrimination, is a mission we will continually prioritize and work to see through.

While speaking up may feel intimidating, we encourage all residents to report any incidents of discrimination or harassment they may witness or experience. Our doors are open, and we are here to listen, support, and take action against discrimination in all its forms.

Please join us in promoting tolerance, understanding, and empathy. Together, we can build a brighter and more equitable future for Cumberland.

Chairman Segrist said that he has received several phone calls and emails over the last several months from people asking him why other towns are doing things in their communities and why aren't we as a Town standing up and putting out a statement that we don't condone hateful acts in our community. He personally does not condone that type of activity and it has no place here in our community. But it carries a lot more weight when these types of statements come from the unified body that runs the Town.

Councilor Storey-King thanked Councilor Filson for spending time with her to discuss this. She absolutely endorses the statement, and it is how she tries to live. One of the things that she sees us doing as a Council doesn't relate to any of these protected statuses, but she wants to call our attention to the incredible socioeconomic bias that exists within our community. This is very concerning to her because there are people in our Town who do not feel safe, they do not feel like belong because perhaps they live in a household that doesn't have the income that someone in another part of Town has. Her challenge to this Council is that we walk the walk and not just talk the talk, and every individual that gets up to the podium is treated with kindness and respect, whether we agree with them or not. We should not prejudge what they are going to say. She would like us to take this opportunity to become better listeners. It is incumbent on us to deliver this to our community.

Councilor Vail said that he has struggled with this from several different aspects. It is more personal for him because he has to ask the question who am I? He has faults, but he likes to think that he's a better person than he was years ago. At least he strives to be better. He can wholeheartedly agree to endorse the statement. He will not tolerate discrimination or bullies, and he will always stand up and face them. There are a lot of worries in this world and there is a lot of work to be done.

Nicole Nevulis of Blanchard Road Extension said that she smiled when Councilor Storey-King mentioned socioeconomics because it is in the community and when we are making these statements, we should try to address all of the members either coming into or within our community. It goes a lot further in terms of those willing to endorse the statement if they see that it is being made with heart and substance and not lipstick on pig. She personally likes the statement.

Dave Noonan of Meadow Lane said that he appreciates Councilor Vail's humility and the growth from the Council's perspective for something like this is tremendous. Thank you.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Douglass, to adopt the Town Council Community Values Statement as presented.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

V. NEW BUSINESS

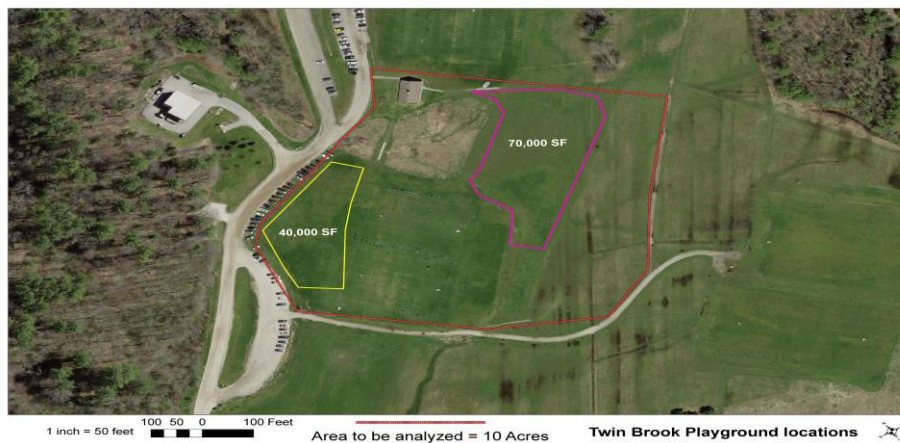
Councilor Copp – He and his good friend Dean, both donated \$20 to the 4-H fund that benefits the food pantry, as he does at every Town Council meeting. Since he was absent from the last meeting, he donated \$40 this evening.

Councilor Vail – No new business.

Councilor Filson – No new business.

Councilor Douglass – She asked Town Manager Shane to talk about a new playground proposal at Twin Brook.

Town Manager Shane said that as part of the last budget, the Town Council allocated monies to go into a reserve fund for a future playground. The addition of a playground at Twin Brook is a lot more complex than you might think. He referred to the map below, explaining that the area marked out in red represents approximately 10 acres of space. He is evaluating where any wetlands could be impacted with the construction of a playground. The first step is to delineate the wetland areas that we have to stay away from so we don't adversely impact our DEP permit. The next step would be to go before our Planning Board for approval.



Councilor Edes – Hunting season starts Saturday. We have a lot of public land, and it is used by both hunters and non-hunters. We have a very long history of good cooperation and communication with hunters. We have had very few problems over the years. He reminded everyone to wear orange if they are in the woods.

Councilor Storey-King – Something new this year is that youth hunting is 2 days.

Thank you to Assistant Town Manager, Chris Bolduc, for his help in making sure that things ran smoothly at the cross-country event at Twin Brook this past weekend.

Thank you to Town Manager Shane for adding the dangerous intersection sign at Middle Road. This is a step in the right direction.

There was a Library Advisory Board meeting last week. The space analysis report for the library was included in the Council packet. Please read it. The library is bursting at the seams and we are grateful to have the ability to use some of the rooms at the Wescustogo Community Hall and our own Town buildings. There is a lot of programming at the library to meet the needs of our community.

The Historical Society will have a presentation on the history of stone walls in Maine this Wednesday evening at our Town Hall.

Good luck to Greely Football who has a home playoff game this Friday night. She is very proud of them. They went from 0 and 7 last year to 4 and 3 this year. They are second in the standings for their division.

Our next Town Council meeting isn't until after Veterans Day. Thank you to all our Veterans. The events of the world cause can cause any of us anxiety, and she is sure it isn't easy for our Veterans to watch the news these days.

She invited the Town Manager to visit Deep Creek Cattle Company on Middle Road where she can teach him the difference between bulls and steers and cows and heifers if he is so inclined to learn this (laughter).

Chairman Segrist – The Town Council has a meeting with the North Yarmouth Selectboard and MSAD 51 Board of Directors this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at Wescustogo Hall in North Yarmouth. We will be talking about shared goals and strategic planning. The main discussion will be centered around the new school and trying to figure out where the School Board is on that, what the next steps are, and how we can continue with open dialogue to be sure that we are all moving in the same direction.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Vail, to adjourn.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 9:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore
Council Secretary