

➤ **Article 25: Easements – Taylor Ave**

9/14/16

Sid Kashi, Town Engineer, presented Article 25. The Taylor Avenue Project has taken 12 years to get to where it is now. The project consists of a bridge replacement and significant roadway and pedestrian improvements. The project, which totals close to a \$10 million, will be funded and overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). The town is required to obtain permanent and temporary easements in order to receive state and federal funding. The easements will allow the contractor to perform the work and allow the town to use and maintain the improvements once the project is complete. These easements include the backs of sidewalks, grading, driveway aprons, setting utility poles back, widening sidewalks to meet ADA requirements, etc. The Town will be contacting each affected property owner individually to discuss these easement acquisitions. Town Meeting action is required to accept the easements. The town is in the process of completing a final design of the project and Mass DOT will advertise it in the spring of 2017.

Questions:

- So this article is just to approve acceptance of a lot of little easements? (P O'Brien) Yes.
- How do the residents of Taylor Ave feel about this? (H Helm) Mass Highway held a public meeting on June 2nd and answered all questions and concerns. The town also had a public meeting to discuss the land takings. We have some in opposition where properties have walls and fences built on the town right of way. There are 3 different widths of town right of way on the street, 35 feet, 40 feet and 50 feet. The town is trying to occupy the town right of way to allow ADA compliant sidewalks and a shoulder for bicycles, with the goal being accommodation of pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.
- Will there be added parking along Taylor Ave? (H Helm) We will add formalized parking where we can where there is a 50 foot right of way, not where there is only 35 feet.
- Do you know what the cost may be for the eminent domain takings? (J Moody) April Town Meeting approved \$250,000. When we did the Samoset Street project. 20% of the easements were donated. We have seen some interest in easement donations for the Taylor Ave project. We do not know the exact cost because we do not have an appraisal done yet and we do not know how many will donate. We think the total cost will come in the \$200,000 to \$250,000 range.

Patrick O'Brien made a motion to recommend Article 25 to Town Meeting. Harry Helm, second. The motion carries unanimously (14-0-0).