

Town of Southern Shores Capital Improvement Plan Committee

June 11, 2015 4:00 p.m.

Street location adjacent to 283 N. Dogwood Trail

Attendees: Committee members Mayor Tom Bennett and Council member Larry Lawhon; Citizen staff representatives Jim Conners and Elizabeth Morey; Town Staff representatives Peter Rascoe, Joe Anlauf, Rachel Patrick, and Chief David Kole; Council member Jodi Hess; invited - Mark Fletcher, Atlantic Tree Xperts.

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order.

Peter Rascoe made opening remarks stating the purpose of the meeting is to inspect and discuss a significantly deteriorating road condition between house #283 and #291 on North Dogwood Trail. Peter reminded the Committee that a section of North Dogwood Trail that included this area was removed from the FY 2015-2016 CIP Street Prioritization List at the April 9, 2015 CIP Committee meeting, and was replaced with the development of a comprehensive plan for North, South and East Dogwood Trails. Since that time, the area of the street being discussed today has rapidly deteriorated to the point that Town staff are recommending a repair. Peter also reminded the Committee that a Public Hearing on the FY 2015-2016 CIP Street Prioritization List will be held during the Council Meeting on July 7, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. for consideration and possible amendment or adoption by the Council.

Rachel Patrick stated that this area of North Dogwood Trail has displayed cracking and pothole issues for some time, but in the past couple of months it has been observed that the area has rapidly deteriorated to the point that it is in dire need of a major repair. The existing North Dogwood Trail was built under substandard conditions, with no base material, and is comprised of several layers of asphalt. It appears to have been overlaid at least once in its lifetime. Public Works staff recently patched several areas of crumbling asphalt in this area, and the asphalt just beyond the patches is now observed to be crumbling. This area is an example of what happens to a failing road that was not built properly with a stone base- it can quickly deteriorate under certain conditions. This problem has likely been made worse due to recent construction traffic where a new home is being built, as roads lacking a proper base are susceptible to rapid deterioration from wear and tear from normal traffic if they are already experiencing moderate to severe asphalt failures. Rachel recommends that this area of street be completely rebuilt (old asphalt removed, stone base installed and new asphalt placed) due to its extremely poor condition. Rachel said that a rebuild of this area can be designed to maintain the existing street width (no widening of the street necessary); a single tree, located at the east side of the street would be removed due to its close proximity to the road as well as to its visibly damaged main trunk, which lost a significant piece during a recent storm and which is cracked and appears to have been weakened. This tree may be considered to be hazardous and is recommended for removal whether a street rebuild goes forward or not.

Joe Anlauf stated that the street could be realigned to avoid removing any trees aside from the single damaged tree referenced by Rachel; the design would be very close to the existing street alignment, but would swing the street out at the south end by about two feet to the east in order to avoid damaging two mature trees on the west side of the road. Joe also recommended a rebuild of the street to meet current standards.

Mark Fletcher of Atlantic Tree Xperts was asked his opinion on the health of the tree located on the east side of the street that appears to be damaged; he stated that it is evident that the trunk has been damaged

and is missing a large amount of volume, and there is a crack visible on the north side of the trunk. The tree is likely weak and could pose a risk of coming down during a major storm. Mark was also asked about two mature trees in the right-of-way on the west side of the street, which he stated seemed to be in relatively good condition and may need some slight pruning.

Police Chief Kole stated that his concerns are safety-related, and that two vehicles must be able to safely pass each other and emergency vehicles must be able to safely access the street.

Elizabeth Morey asked Rachel how many phone calls Public Works has received over this problem; Rachel stated that she can recall three phone calls and one in-person visit from residents asking about a repair to this area. Rachel stated that three calls and one visit in a relatively short amount of time (2-3 weeks) is unusual for one street, as she typically receives one or two phone calls per month about conditions on any particular street. Elizabeth stated that she observes many roads in Southern Shores in similar condition as the area the Committee was observing today on North Dogwood Trail, and that she does not support a full rebuild of the street in this area, but would be in favor of the Town continuing to patch the worst areas.

Jim Conners stated that while he could see the area is in very poor condition and will need to be addressed at some point, he remains committed to the idea that a comprehensive study of North, South and East Dogwood Trails is needed before making any plans to significantly repair or rebuild any portion of those streets, and so he does not support a rebuild in this area at this time. Jim also expressed concerns about the feelings of the adjacent residents about rebuilding the street, and stated that there is still a lot of misinformation and suspicion among Dogwood residents following the recent Dogwood Intersection and Fairway Drive rebuild projects. He also stated that when the Town communicates with adjacent property owners as was done on Scuppernong Lane and Wild Swan Lane, most people understand and are more supportive of the CIP. He thought that a project in this limited area should also include a discussion with property owners of the entire North Dogwood Trail rather than just the five or so property owners in this section. Rachel said that if Council decides that a rebuild project should move forward, a meeting with property owners would be held to gather input during the design process.

Tom Bennett stated that it was evident that the problem in this area was serious and that it seemed to him that a rebuild was necessary. Councilman Larry Lawhon agreed with Mayor Bennett and recommended to him that the recommendation from staff be reported to the full Council at its next meeting on June 16th for possible further consideration at the Council's July 7th meeting and public hearing.

Council member Jodi Hess also attended the meeting as an observer in a non-participatory role.

Minutes recorded by Rachel Patrick, and compiled with concurrence of all Committee Members, Citizen Representatives, and Staff Representatives in attendance.