

AES Project: Neighborhood Meeting

Date:	Wednesday, September 15, 2021
Location:	Cashman Elementary School Cafeteria
Time:	6:00 PM



List of Attendees

Name	Association/Title
Kassandra Gove	Mayor of Amesbury
Elizabeth McAndrews	Amesbury Superintendent of Schools
Matthew Bennett	Director of Facilities
Robert Desmarais	Director of Public Works
Craig Bailey	Police Chief
John Lopez	Conservation Agent
Tim Dorman	OPM/NV5
Jim Shuttleworth	Architect/DiNisco Design
Edward Pereira	General Contractor/CTA
Patty Bradley	Public Attendee
Milena Charewicz	Public Attendee
Kim Springis	Public Attendee
Billie McLane	Public Attendee
Alma Grady	Public Attendee
Jack Grady	Public Attendee

Meeting Summary

1. Construction Progress Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The overview of phasing was discussed, noting that the project is being completed in 5 sequential phases and phase 2 (Summer 2021) was completed in late August, prior to the return of students to Cashman for the 2021/2022 school year. The phases are as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Phases 1 and 2 CompletePhase 3: August 24, 2021 to June 17, 2022Phase 4: June 18, 2022 to August 21, 2022 (Summer No. 2 – Cashman Work)Phase 5: August 22, 2022 to February 17, 2023Activities completed in Phases 1 and 2 include installation of erosion controls, construction fencing and entrance, the construction of the new Cashman electrical yard to support the generator and transformer relocation, waterline construction west of Cashman, strip and dispose of top soil and begin excavation and preparations for foundation work.

- Phase 3 will continue through the end of the school year in June 2022, with the near term focus being foundation work in preparation for the first structural steel delivery in November 2021.
- Phase 4 will extend through the summer 2022, to allow for the rest of the Cashman site work to be completed, while work continues on the new building and site.
- Phase 5 cover the remainder of the construction duration through February 2023 where the building will be completed and much of the landscaping will be completed during the fall 2022 planting season.

2 Truck Traffic and Travel Schedule

- It was noted that the current truck traffic is primarily dump trucks hauling topsoil and unsuitable fill for offsite disposal as well as delivery of imported structural fill.
- CTA noted that when hauling operations are active, they will typically have 10 total trucks each making two trips each day.
- The trucks arrive in the morning and queue up inside the fence until they begin loading them at 7:00 AM, with no idling allowed prior.
- Hauling is expected to continue for the next several weeks, weather permitting, as they cannot haul when it's too wet.
- Chief Bailey noted that the Police have increased enforcement activity in the area in light of the reduced speed limit and increased truck traffic. He noted that during a recent review, the truck traffic appeared to be adhering to the 25 MPH speed limit and that offenders were generally observed to be cars.
- Members of the public in attendance voiced concern about truck traffic and read similar concerns from other neighbors who could not attend.
- Chief Bailey advised that the Police Department will keep patrols going and suggested contacting him directly with any specific concerns.
- It was also noted that Chief Bailey recently attended a project meeting and the Contractor confirmed that the speed concerns have been relayed to the drivers and will be taking a zero tolerance approach to enforcement.
- A concern was raised by a public comment regarding the narrowing of the Highland/Friend/Lion’s Mouth Road intersection and bike safety.
- Rob Desmarais indicated that the intersection project is complete and the design intent was to reconfigure the layout to slow traffic and maximize pedestrian safety, but still meet the turning radius requirements. It was noted that the truck traffic in the area is a relatively short term condition.
- A question was raised regarding travel schedule of truck traffic conflicting with the busses. It was clarified that the trucks are scheduled to arrive by 7:00 AM for their first load, while the CES bus traffic comes later and the Middle School bus traffic queue should not have any connection to construction traffic given the travel routes.

3 CES Playground Update

- NV5 provided a summary of the additional soil samples that were taken at the CES Playground as follows:
 - Samples were collected for the native material below the imported gravel layer and filter fabric and the results were consistent with the range of

concentrations of arsenic found in the sampling completed on the AES Project site.

- The soil in this area was determined by the Project LSP and confirmed with DEP to be naturally occurring, so this appears consistent.
- The LSP advised that if the same cover condition exists throughout the playground area that was observed at the sample locations, then that would provide an adequate cover over the native soil, but recommended adding a layer of mulch as well.
- Matt Bennett noted that he dug additional test holes and confirmed the hard packed gravel layer with filter fabric exists throughout the playground areas. He also noted that 200 CY of mulch is being spread over the entire area to provide an approximately 6" additional mulch cover.
- Superintendent McAndrews stated that the mulch cover will be part of the ongoing maintenance program and will budget accordingly.
- Matt Bennett added that other measures will be put in place in the future to help contain the mulch and prevent washout.
- Mayor Gove stated that the testing results will be made available to the public, although probably not on the AES project site, since this area is outside of the MSBA approved project scope and budget and is being handled by the City separately.

4 Sidewalk Update

- Rob Desmarais provided an update on the Lion's Mouth Road sidewalk project, which is summarized as follows:
 - The work has been completed.
 - A different location is being reviewed for the crosswalk due to safety concerns.
 - The sidewalk will be cleared of snow after storm events.
 - Concern was raised by an abutter regarding the erosion control location, however they were confirmed to be placed correctly, within the right of way.
- John Lopez provided an update regarding the environmental compliance, summarized as follows:
 - The erosion controls and DEP sign were installed as required by the approved plan and were not on private property.
 - The Environmental Monitor conducted weekly inspections of the work, similar to the requirements for the AES Project and the neighbor was invited to participate if desired.
 - The Environmental Monitor for the AES Project has also begun to perform the weekly inspections and has had very positive reports regarding the contractor's proactive measures to avoid erosion before storm events and general compliance.
- A comment was made regarding concern about the existing sidewalk along the curve. Rob Desmarais noted that it is a very challenging condition to address as a wall will be required due the grade and limited space between the adjacent house.

- A question was raised regarding the condition of the sidewalk towards downtown. Rob indicated that replacing concrete sidewalks is very costly, much more so than asphalt pavement and the City has to prioritize improvements.
- It was noted that the sidewalk along highland will be addressed as part of the Athletic Fields project.
- A question was raised regarding a flashing light for the school zone. It was noted that there will be an additional school speed limit sign with a flashing beacon installed west of the new driveway as part of the AES Project.

5 Drainage Improvements Update

- Rob Desmarais provided an update on the drainage improvements project, summarized as follows:
 - \$1.1M in funding has been secured.
 - The design is proceeding.
 - The scope is expected to include replacement of the driveway culvert and the culvert from Friend Street to Town Park.
 - Cleaning of the brook will happen later.

6 Dust Control

- NV5 provided an overview of the dust control and monitoring protocols in place on the AES Project, summarized as follows:
 - The contract documents require that preventative measure be used by the contractor to avoid generating dust.
 - The contractor has a water truck on site to wet soil to keep dust from developing.
 - The wet conditions have limited the need for any additional measures and dust have been observed to be well mitigated.
 - Additionally, there is a dust monitoring program in place to track any occurrences of dust exceeding the allowable thresholds. Perimeter dust monitoring devices are put in place daily at three locations as determined by sensitive receptors, work locations and prevailing winds. To date there have been no exceedances.
 - The contractor also has a hand held dust monitoring device in the work zone area to alert of any exceedances of dust levels.
- A comment was read from a neighbor that is about ¼ south on Lion’s Mouth Road, who could not attend, but noticed a film of gray dust on their car and closed their windows to keep dust out of the house. It was noted that dust on the AES Project site has been well controlled, so it seems unlikely it came from the site, but the project team will keep a close eye on it.

7 Communication/Progress Update

- Next Quarterly Neighborhood Meetings: December 15, 2021
- Project Website:
https://cleargov.com/massachusetts/essex/city/amesbury/projects/21/amesbury-elementary-school-building-project-_or_-_sgt.-jordan-shay-memorial-lower-elementary-school

- On-site Point of Contact: Bill Shaw, Site Representative, NV5
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These meeting minutes were prepared by NV5. Please notify NV5 within 48 hours of receipt of this document regarding any required corrections or clarifications.