

ATTACHMENT B:

October 16, 2017

To the Lowell Town Selectboard:

We, the undersigned, have the following two questions for the Selectboard members and request these questions and answers be included in the minutes of this meeting.

1. What progress has been made since the Oct 3, 2017, Selectboard meeting regarding the Kempton Hill Bridge and Road?

1. Conversations with VLCT - on options, if financially the town does not have funds.
2. Conversation with Steve Mason (Grant writer & teacher on grants) Could he help locate and submit for grants. see attached
3. Conversation & Resources inquired from VTRANS.
4. Spent some time looking for VT Grants for Bridges Repairs
5. Contacted Lauren Bennett (Restoration Biologists) Natural

2. What action(s), if any, will be forthcoming concerning this situation before Winter?

Resources inquiring about Grant - see attached

→ 1. Still trying to search for Grants

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arlon Warner

Arlon Warner



Scott Tallman

sladeau@lowelltown.org

From: Bennett, Lauren <lauren_bennett@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 11:28 AM
To: Sandy Ladeau
Cc: Schmeltzer, John; Linda Elliott
Subject: Re: Kempton Bridge

Hi Sandy,

I just called and left you a voicemail but it sounds like you don't have office hours today so I thought that I would also send you an e-mail.

I am sorry to hear that you have had to close the bridge for safety reasons. One of the State's river scientists along with another biologist had the chance to go out in the field in and investigate the Kempton Hill Rd. bridge. Based upon their analysis, we don't think that this bridge would be eligible for the natural resource damage settlement funds that we have to spend in Lowell.

Though the bridge is clearly a safety hazard, its design and placement isn't confining or impacting Burgess Branch in a such a way that stream habitat or migratory fish are being negatively effected. Thus, repairing the bridge would not provide a significant ecological benefit to stream or fish habitat.

I'm sorry as I know that this is not the answer that you, the Selectboard and the Town were hoping to hear. We continue to be very interested in working with you to explore potential road crossing projects in Lowell that would help the town with its infrastructure and also be beneficial to stream habitat and aquatic organisms. In particular, we would be looking for road crossings with undersized, collapsed or perched culverts that fish can't pass through and that confine the flow of the stream. If you or others have additional ideas, please let me know.

I think that John Schmeltzer is also planning to reach out to Alden to discuss potential project ideas further. John said to feel to give him a call if you or the Selectboard have any questions and I am always here as well.

Best,
Lauren

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Lauren Bennett, Restoration Biologist  
Natural Resource and Damage Assessment and Restoration Program  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
New England Field Office  
(P) 603.227.6426

On Thu, Sep 14, 2017 at 1:02 PM, Sandy Ladeau <[sladeau@lowelltown.org](mailto:sladeau@lowelltown.org)> wrote:

Lauren – Just wanted to check back in with you. We have now had to close Kempton Hill Bridge, due to the condition and public safety, recommended by the State of Vermont. They had an inspection team checking all bridges in Vermont

and sent us a letter stated they highly recommend we close it. Of course, we cannot afford to replace it. Is there any new outcome on your end?

Thank you for your time.

Sandy

**From:** Bennett, Lauren [mailto:[lauren\\_bennett@fws.gov](mailto:lauren_bennett@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 9:14 AM

**To:** Sandy Ladeau <[sladeau@lowelltown.org](mailto:sladeau@lowelltown.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Kempton Bridge

Hi Sandy,

Just wanted to let you know that a couple of biologists with the state are going to be up in your neck of the woods doing some fieldwork today and are going to go and check out the Kempton Hill Road bridge.

We'll probably have to do some additional research to figure out the potential ecological benefit of addressing this road crossing. I have reached out to all of the local state/federal biologists to get their assistance with this and I will continue to keep you posted.

Best,

Lauren

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Lauren Bennett, Restoration Biologist

Natural Resource and Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

US Fish and Wildlife Service

New England Field Office

(P) 603.227.6426

sladeau@lowelltown.org

From: Steven Mason | NEKTI Consulting <steve@kingdomcommons.com>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2017 3:25 PM
To: Sandy Edwards LaDeau
Subject: Fwd: VTrans Grant
Attachments: VTrans_Public Assistance Grant Program Briefing_2017.pdf

Sandy,

It was nice to speak with you.

Attached is an example of grants available IF the project is deemed worthy. The amount is limited (\$175k) with a town match and the amount over (in this case, \$225k) is all on the town AND it has to meet state standards.

Steve

Town Highway Structures

- State grants for preserving, maintaining, repairing, or replacing bridges, culverts (36-inch diameter and larger), and retaining walls on Class 1, 2, or 3 town highways.
 - Maximum state grant is \$175,000 per project.
 - Local share 20% of total cost
- or,
- Local share 10% of total cost if:
 - Adopted latest State-approved codes & standards
 - Completed a network inventory
 - Submitted annual codes & standards certification of compliance
 - VTrans district personnel work closely with towns to assist in the application process and to select projects.