



**SCENIC ROADWAYS BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD**

**DATE** 11 March 2015

**PLACE** Narragansett Town Hall, Narragansett, RI

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Ms. Sue Barker, Mr. Michael DeLuca, Ms. Myrna George, Ms. Barbara Petrarca, Ms. Lisa Primiano and Mr. Richard Youngken

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Ms. Elizabeth Delude-Dix, Mr. Peter Healey and Mr. Karst Hoogeboom

**OTHERS PRESENT** Ms. Susan Votta, RIDOT Landscape Unit  
Mr. Trevor Jones, RIDOT Landscape Unit  
Mr. Robert Simon, RIDOT Landscape Unit  
Mr. Mike Sock, RIDOT Materials  
Mr. Sean Raymond, RIDOT Traffic Engineer  
Ms. Jennifer DiStefano, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB)  
Mr. Peter J. Pavao, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB)

**AGENDA ITEM 1** **Call to Order**  
Chairperson Petrarca called the meeting to order at **1:41 PM**.

**AGENDA ITEM 2** **Approval of the Minutes**  
Mr. DeLuca, made a motion, seconded by Ms. George to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2014 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously, six voted in favor. Voting in favor were: Ms. Barker, Mr. DeLuca, Ms. George, Ms. Petrarca, Ms. Primiano and Mr. Youngken

**AGENDA ITEM 3** **Staff Report**  
**a. Action Items**  
**Route 1, Charlestown, RI**  
**Project: Statewide Median Guardrail Contract 2 (2012-ET-008)**  
Mr. Pavao gave an overview of the project which was presented at the November 12, 2014 meeting. At that meeting, the Board asked that the engineers continue to evaluate any other options, removal of the curb, how other states are handling the same or similar situations, and treatments to steel. Ms. DiStefano updated the Board on their research. The consulting engineers recommendation based upon standards are that steel guardrail is considered the appropriate option verses cable or steel backed timber for the location and treatments to the steel have been looked at. One coloring option looked at is Natina based out of California. This may be costly. Another option is a Colorgalv process by a Massachusetts company. Colorgalv is performed by Duncan Galvanizing who showed a presentation to VHB engineers and RIDOT. Mr. Pavao saw this product used on Franconia Notch in New Hampshire by the NHDOT. A sample of galvanized guardrail in the color rusty brown was shown to the Board. The SRB requested a darker shade of brown. Ms. Votta will contact Colorgalv and ask for another color sample.

Mr. Youngken asks for RIDOT to commit to continue to install the colored galvanized guardrail on Route 1 going into South Kingstown and Westerly. Ms. Votta points out that if the colored galvanized guardrail is installed, that 2 colors of guardrail will be on Route 1: existing guardrail will be the traditional gray steel and new guardrail will be colored galvanized. Ms. Petrarca suggests that the Town of Charlestown be informed of the proposal and that they comment in writing. The Town can be sent a set of plans or someone from the Town can attend a board meeting. Ms. Petrarca also wants to hear about how RIDOT will handle maintenance of a different color guardrail.

Mr. Youngken states that the addition of guardrail to a scenic roadway in a location where guardrail has not existed is an adverse effect on the aesthetics even though there is a safety benefit to prevent crossing the median. Mr. Youngken asked about the consideration of vegetation in between the guardrail. The median is approx. 5' wide. Each side of guardrail is 18" wide so a 2' strip is left in the middle of the median. Ms. Votta and Mr. Jones explain that there are not many shrub choices that grow in a limited amount of space and that will also handle the harsh roadside environment. A board member suggests an ornamental grass like what is planted on portions of Route 1 in North Kingstown. Ms. Votta will look into the option of a Pennisetum grass in a seed form to keep costs down.

Mr. Youngken made a motion, seconded by Ms. George to conceptually approve the project, with the conditions to mitigate the adverse effect with Duncan color galvanized guardrail and to seed the area between the two single span guardrails in the median with an ornamental switchgrass. Other conditions of approval are to get the brown color sample of guardrail, meet with the Charlestown Town Council, and recommend that guardrail be continued to Shore Road in Westerly to maintain visual consistency.

Mr. DeLuca made a motion, seconded by Ms. George to request that whether or not Route 1 in South Kingstown becomes a state designated scenic roadway that the same guardrail be used in South Kingstown, Narragansett, Charlestown and Westerly for consistency of the viewshed.

b. Non-Action Items

The Board accepted the following dates for meetings:

Annual Notice  
2015 Meeting Dates

Meetings occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month as follows:

- January 14
- February 11
- March 11
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8

- August 12
  
- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

All meetings are scheduled to be held at the:

Narragansett Town Hall  
25 Fifth Avenue  
Narragansett, RI  
OR

Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI  
Conference Room

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

AGENDA ITEM 4

**Adjournments**

Mr. DeLuca, made a motion, seconded by Ms. Primiano to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 PM.

The motion was passed unanimously, six voted in favor. Voting in favor were: Ms. Barker, Mr. DeLuca, Ms. George, Ms. Petrarca, Ms. Primiano and Mr. Youngken

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2015 at 1:30 PM in Narragansett.

Scenic Roadways Board  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board  
11 March 2015

Page 4 of 4

Respectfully submitted by Susan Votta