

Arnold Mills Village Association
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arnoldmillsvillage.org

August 27, 2010

Town of Cumberland Mayor McKee and Mr. Eugene Jeffers
Robert Smith, R.I. Department of Transportation
Representative Karen MacBeth

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Jeffers, Representative MacBeth and Mr Smith,

The residents of Arnold Mills in the vicinity of the recently closed Sneece Pond Road bridge were very pleased to receive a revised plan for changes to the old Sneece Pond Road bridge (No. 301). We recognize that the economic climate and many competing priorities are an extreme challenge. Our neighborhood is grateful for your time and consideration in this matter.

Interested local parties have met to discuss the new plan and the purpose of this letter is to provide consolidated input from the residents. The general consensus is that the plan is a great improvement upon the current situation and that we would like to see it continue as quickly as possible. Should any of our suggestions prove to counter that goal, please do not let them prevent forward progress.

The specific considerations voiced by our membership were three items:

The first is that a current water drainage path near the mailbox of the "existing residence" (home of Mike Antunes, formerly Pentimento 322 Sneece Pond Road) may be slightly obstructed by the new "pressure treated timber tie" depending on exact location. After rainfall, water currently flows down the street toward Abbot Run Brook and cascades behind the building. A concern is that the water may be forced to flow under the building in the new plan, potentially undermining its stilt-based structure. We think it is something that can also be remedied post-install as well.

The second concern is that there remain some space for vehicles to park near the group of mailboxes indicated on the plan (near 315 Sneece Pond Road). The current resident is elderly and requires frequent visits for home care etc. Space may also be required for our mail carrier to turn their vehicle and for snow clearance in the winter. The concern is that the placement of the bollards on the west end of the bridge may obstruct these activities somewhat if the plan is truly indicative of scale.

The third concern is that any plantings destined for the "2' Plantable soil & Plants (TBD)" area be sufficiently low-maintenance and non-invasive. Our suggestion is to either allow the neighborhood to provide plantings, freeing RIDOT of that responsibility, or to plan low-maintenance perennial plants such as day lilies and myrtle (vinca minor).

If you could keep these thoughts in mind as the plan progresses, we would certainly appreciate it. Thank you for the time and effort you have devoted to this item. We are all excited to once again enjoy the beauty of this historic bridge.

Sincerely yours,



Sterling Vernon