



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 12, 2016
To: Common Council
From: David Buck, CDD
RE: Status Update - Waterfront Trail Easement along Rear Yard of 95 Broad Street
(Connecting Trestle Trail/Broad Street to Water Street)

In 1997, as part of an agreement vacating the Water Street right-of-way between Broad Street and Barlow Street, the City of Menasha acquired a 15' easement along the Fox River Navigational Channel for the installation of a walkway/trail. The easement requires the City to begin the development of the walkway/trail no later than April, 2017.

This item was brought before the Board of Public Works on July 18, 2016 to discuss options associated with the construction of a walkway. The Common Council discussed the topic in closed session at the August 1, 2016 meeting. At the Common Council Meeting of September 6, 2016 discussion took place regarding purchasing 95 Broad Street, installing the trail on the waterside before current easement expires, and entering into discussion with the property owner about other options for the easement expansion. The Council directed staff to explore an extension of the easement's time period within which to install the trail including actions needed for widening the easement to accommodate a larger multi-use trail rather than simply a walkway.

Staff has been in contact with the property owner in regard to increasing the size of the easement to accommodate an 8-10 foot wide multi-use trail, delaying the trail installation to coincide with Water Street reconstruction (planned for 2020), and other particulars such as the inclusion of lighting, signage and some form of physical separation of the trail from the parcels rear yard. Preliminary conversations about expanding the easement area in exchange for monetary compensation, delayed installation and inclusion of the aforementioned amenities have been promising and staff is continuing to work with the property owner.

Staff is optimistic that an arrangement to increase the easement area can be made by the end of the year but points out that if no agreement can be reached that the City would begin construction of the walkway in the spring of 2017 to satisfy the terms of the easement agreement and protect the City's ability to establish the connection between the Trestle Trail/Broad Street to Water Street along the shore of the Fox River Navigational Channel.