

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Menasha Board of Public Works
From: Brian Tungate, Director of Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Cemeteries BT
Date: 13 July 2016
RE: Water Street Trail Easement

Background

In 1997, as part of an agreement vacating Water Street ROW between Broad Street and Barlow Street, the City of Menasha acquired a 15' easement along the shore of the Fox River Navigational Channel. The easement contains several restrictions including that if a walkway is constructed in the easement that it can not be used for "fishing, stopping, standing, or other such activities." More importantly, if Menasha fails to begin development of a walkway within 20 years the easement terminates. The easement will terminate in April of 2017 if construction does not commence by then.

With the opening of the Trestle Trail parking demand in the neighborhood has increased dramatically. The City proposes that parking could be installed at the intersection of Water & Barlow Streets to help meet demand for parking in the area.

To create the safest environment for pedestrians and bikers to reach the trail from the parking area it is proposed that a connecting trail or sidewalk be constructed in one of two ways:

- Option A – would include a 5'-6' concrete walk along the waterfront within the easement described above. The walk would not function well for bicycle traffic, and would be run through the property owner's rear yard.
- Option B – would include an 8' asphalt trail (min width for 2 way traffic on a trail) along the ROW of both Broad Street and Barlow Street. This option could require a new easement.

Fiscal Impact

The cost of materials for either option A or B is less than \$4,000, with work to be completed by City employees. The cost of the materials for the parking area is \$4,500. If option A is chosen the work should be completed in 2016 to ensure that the easement does not expire, option B could be included in the 2017 budget. There are sufficient funds in the street construction budget for 2016.

Recommendation

City Staff recommends option B, due to the minimum width for a bike trail at 8' not being available in option A. If the Board of Public works agrees and recommends option B, City staff will complete a survey, design, and secure easements for construction in 2017 as part of the 2017 budget.

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5'-6' OPTION "A"
CONCRETE SIDEWALK

PROPOSED PARKING



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OPTION "B"
8' TRAIL

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EXISTING WALK
TO BE REMOVED
WITH OPTION "B"

PROPOSED PARKING

