

## Water Street bridge will be ready for Thanksgiving parade



The town opted for a more expensive but aesthetically pleasing stone veneer wall to keep vehicles from driving off Water Street as they cross Town Brook. Wicked Local photo/Frank Mand

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PLYMOUTH – DPW Director Jonathan Beder joked that there would be a hanging tree float in Saturday's Thanksgiving parade, with him dangling from a branch, if the Water Street bridge wasn't complete in time for the parade to pass over it.

The annual Thanksgiving parade route begins at Benny's Plaza on Court Street, then moves directly south on Court and Main streets to Main Street Extension before turning left onto Water Street.

But if the bridge wasn't finished in time, Saturday's parade floats would have to make a sharp turn down the steep and narrow Leyden Street.

Beder was able to joke because, as he said a moment later when asked about the status of the bridge project, "We're all good."

For the past several years, the age and design of the old bridge necessitated the posting of weight limits that required large trucks and tour buses to use an alternative route to and from the waterfront and the Rock.

Northern Construction was the low bidder on the project, coming in at \$1.435 million to install a new bridge, including \$100,000 for the demolition of the old bridge, \$237,000 for concrete, \$215,000 for the precast cofferdam structure, \$100,000 for the 3-sided precast concrete culvert and \$135,000 in stone masonry veneer.

Crews began work in September to remove the old bridge and reroute the brook.

Since that time, the section of Water Street between Union and Leyden streets has been closed to all vehicular traffic.

Pedestrians have been able to access Brewster Gardens from both sides of Water Street during the construction, however, and many residents have taken advantage of that to watch the ongoing work from the Garden.

If you braved the rain to take a close look at the bridge Monday, you would have seen a pair of excavators moving back and forth over the finished culvert, the water flowing underneath, just a small section of wall still being poured.

The new bridge will feature concrete safety barriers on both sides, and by Monday it had been faced with a decorative stone veneer.

"We're looking at doing the last of the concrete pouring today," Beder said Monday, "the concrete for one of the abutment walls, on the ocean side.

"After that, there's some clean up and grading to do, and the plan right now is to start paving on Wednesday (Nov. 19) or possibly a day later, depending on the weather," Beder said.

Beder also noted that the project had presented some interesting challenges, not the least of which was the hard deadline.

"Controlling the water is always one of the toughest parts, and then there's the weather, which we can do nothing about," Beder said. "But the contractor has been great and the hard parts are behind us now."

