

Town Center Renovation Project

3/21/19 Project meeting minutes

Attendees:

- Pat Campbell, Library
- Richard Maki
- Rosanne Mapp
- Gary Chamberland
- Carol Stewart-Grinkis
- Domenica Tatasciore, Town Planner
- Richard Traina, 44 Main St.
- Brian Kindorf, 39 Main St.
- Ross Perry, TA

Information on ADA requirements regarding width and slope of sidewalks is needed. Matt Marro, Sterling's ADA Coordinator or the engineer that may be hired later in the project may have this information.

The group agreed parking should be retained around all three sides of the Common. There also needs to be a solution for users existing / entering their parked cars. Improving the walkways inside the Common and opening a few sections of the rail fence may be appropriate. There was a belief that the roads aren't wide enough to support both parking and sidewalks around the Common.

Another suggestion was to allow Main Street parking only on the side with businesses and not on the Common section of Main Street. Parking is needed on the Park Street and Main Street sides of the Common.

There was a suggestion to make Meetinghouse Hill Road one way going South in front of the Church. The length of the no parking restriction due to the 'fire lane' in front of the church should be verified with the Fire Dept.

Painting new lines and delineating the parking spaces around the Butterick Building, especially the back lot will improve the overall parking capacity. FYI, there is funding and a plan to patch the pavement, seal coat, and paint parking spaces at the Butterick parking lots this Spring.

Parking could be added by expanding the parking lot behind the Butterick Building and extending the stone wall that goes around the north west side of the building.

The Town property at Crazy Corners across from SMLD by Bridget Street and off Meetinghouse Hill Rd by the 'Town Pound' could be paved and lined and become additional parking for the center. I suggest these be considered as separate projects.

There were mixed opinions on providing 'compact car' parking spaces. Small spaces may allow more total spaces. On the other hand, large vehicles still use small spaces.

Domenica offered to use the GIS mapping capabilities to survey municipal land and possible additional parking spaces.

Sean will be asked for an update on the status of Verizon and Comcast underground cables at a future meeting.

Bill will be asked for cost estimates of the different sidewalk options. A few people had looked at the MassDOT cost estimation web site and Bill's expertise is needed.

Some people advocated for ownership to the Common be resolved as part of this project. I suggest this be done separately and not interfere with this project. Possibly, a MOU could be used to handle issues until actual ownership is determined.

There is a separate project to connect a forced-main sewer line from the 1835 Building to the Fire Station septic system. Could this pipe be routed under the Main Street sidewalk during this project?

After the meeting, almost everyone went outside and walked from the SMLD building to the Library. A few of the comments from observations are attached.

Next meeting Thursday 4/4/19 10:00 AM Butterick Building Room 205

Ross Perry

Observations during the Town Center 'Tour'.

Butterick Building Locus

- Discussion of making Park Street a 1-way loop;
- Discussion of diagonal or 90 degree parking;
- Don't cut into green space in front of building;
- Should have engineer redesign various options for parking in front
- Discussion of trail clearing that may open up more paved area and then parking space striping in the rear;
- Can make a path from the trail in the back of Butterick to Town Pound and possible parking spaces;
- Discussion of cutting into side slope near vault to make area passable with parking;
- Provide parking spaces on both sides in front of the building and delineate them.

Traina Area

- Expansive pavement in front of Traina needs visual definition of space;

Library Area

- Provide a crosswalk from the library to the Town Common;
- Eliminate last parking space in front of church to increase sight distance and improve safety;
- Consideration of a fire lane either in where the library loop is located (thus making the loop 1-way) or beside the library in the pull-in driveway;
- Provide angled parking in front of the library at intersection of Meetinghouse Hill Road/Main Street as the pavement area here is wide and expansive;
- Eliminate southerly library entrance at Meetinghouse Hill Road/Main Street and provide diagonal parking spaces from the street in this space; also, provide a pathway/walkway from these street spaces to the library;
- Realign the yellow centerline stripe on Meetinghouse Hill Road in front of the church/library in order to gain diagonal parking spaces on the street.
- Changing the Meetinghouse Hill Rd to Main Street intersection to more of a right angle will improve left turns on to Main Street, help with the location of a crosswalk from the Common to the Library, and possibly provide more area for parking in front of the library.

General

- Keep all sidewalks consistently 5-feet wide in front of the stores and commercial area;
- More crosswalks leading to destinations;
- Consideration of rumble strips or other means to slow down traffic on roads entering the town center at both ends.