

Holliston Planning Board Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2016

In Attendance: Chairman Geoffrey Zeamer, Warren Chamberlain, David Thorn and Taro Matsuno. Nikki Borman was absent.

Also in attendance was Inge Daniels from the Blair Square Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Call to Order: The Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 105 of the Town Hall, 703 Washington Street.

General Business:

1. Downtown Corridor Plan Discussion

Ms. Daniels provided an update from the Blair Square Committee, noting that she had developed two designs for the area between Central and Exchange Streets that are currently being reviewed by committee members and other interested parties. Financing of any improvements will likely be done through fundraising as the railroad interest precludes most grant funding programs. Information kiosks and the beginning of a fitness station system have been integrated. Challenges to further development of the square as more of a hub include access to Exchange Street from the trail, parking, location of a veteran's honor roll, ownership and use of a remnant parcel on Railroad Street, and the massive area of pavement at the intersections of Front and Winthrop Streets. A sizeable bumpout could be proposed. She noted that the parking lot and trail development from Central Street eastward will be challenging because of the Casey's Crossing building and parking location as well as Askin parcels (former State Lumber).

All were in agreement that an RFP to spend the Board's Professional Services budget should be crafted ASAP with a focus on land use and zoning within the corridor. MAPC staff will be consulted.

2. Approval of Minutes- February 25, 2016

On a motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Thorn, the meeting minutes of February 25, 2016 were approved as written.

3. By-Law Amendment Discussion

Discussion began on the medical marijuana issue based on the Selectmen's request that the matter be further studied and postponed until the October special town meeting. Selectmen Jay Leary was present and offered some comments and concerns as did Ann and Tom Chipman of 116 Stagecoach Road. No action was taken and the matter was tabled until Thursday, March 17th. Ms. Sherman noted that SWAP communities will be discussing the issue of medical marijuana at their meeting of March 15th. Materials will be shared.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded. The next meeting was scheduled for March 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Sherman, Town Planner

Approved: April 7, 2016