

Holliston Planning Board Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2016

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

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. Planning Advisory Board Discussion

Joining the Planning Board were Inge Daniels and Karen Langton as well as Selectman Jay Leary, Jon Varrell of 928 Washington Street, Brian Laughlin of 44 Burnap Road, and Tom and Ann Chipman of 116 Stagecoach Road. Jay Leary gave an update of the Selectmen's vote on 1/20 to push forward with McMahon's Alternative 1 concept plan. Memorandums on downtown traffic from staff, Chairman Zeamer (1/21), Karen Langton (1/21), Inge Daniels (1/8), as well as a series of citizen e-mails forwarded from Town Administrator Jeff Ritter were reviewed.

Mr. Thorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain with all in favor to cooperatively move forward with the Selectmen's plan to "revive" McMahon Transportation Engineers & Planner's (McMahon) August 2014 "Alternative 1" concept plan with the agreement that: (1.) there will be additional technical review/tweaking of the concept plan by McMahon, (2.) there will be informational meetings leading up to the Annual Town Meeting, and (3.) the result will be a single compromise proposal to the voters.

The following memo was transmitted after edits by the sub-committee of Ms. Daniels, Mr. Matsuno, and Chairman Zeamer:

"The Planning Board voted at its meeting of January 21st to cooperatively move forward with the Selectmen's plan to "revive" McMahon Transportation Engineers & Planner's (McMahon) August 2014 "Alternative 1" concept plan with the agreement that: (1.) there will be additional technical review/tweaking of the concept plan by McMahon, (2.) there will be informational meetings leading up to the Annual Town Meeting, and (3.) the result will be a single compromise proposal to the voters. We would like to affirm that the Selectmen will support the Planning Board in concurrently moving forward with a broader Downtown Corridor Plan to address land use, transportation and economic development issues.

We anticipate actively participating in the tasks assigned to McMahon and have established a sub-committee to represent the Planning Board's interests in this process. Additionally we agree to support related funding requests to the Finance Committee and contribute staff, monetary and technical assistance resources available to us.

As we understand it, the goal of this process will be to review and amend Alternative 1 to address concerns raised by Holliston residents around pedestrian and cyclist safety, livability, and walkability. The Planning Board is concerned that the signal concept development/review will also be aimed at coordinating with or doing no harm to longer-term planning efforts. Some initial concepts/ideas collected from individuals and through review of available documents such as the 2012 DOT Safety Audit, 2014 MAPC Parking Analysis, and

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McMahon's 2014 Conceptual Design Report which might advance a more holistic approach to pedestrian safety, streetscape enhancements and traffic management Holliston's downtown follow:

Project Area

- Ensure Washington/Highland Street and Washington/Concord Street signals are coordinated with these signals
- Re-evaluate the trade-offs of on-street parking spaces lost and vehicle queuing south of Green and Exchange Streets
- Evaluate feasibility of converting Exchange Street to an eastbound one-way street and limiting northbound turns from Green Street
- Consider raised median on Washington Street, northbound from Hollis Street intersection as an necessary extension of the project
- Re-evaluate crosswalk locations and need for three
- Prevent motorists from parking too close to crosswalks & improve visibility of pedestrians
- Evaluate the addition of "Sharrow" bicycle markings and "Share the Road" signs along Washington Street
- Consciously work to eliminate sign clutter
- Evaluating potential locations for sidewalk bike racks
- Narrow the roadway to shorten the crossing distance at the intersection of Central Street
- Installing curb extensions at the corners of the intersection of Hollis and Washington Streets, where there are currently pavement markings to narrow crosswalks

General Enhancements to Corridor-Wide Safety, Livability and Walkability:

- Expand or add second phase to pending Mudville Chapter 90 project to include improvement of Washington Street curbing, sidewalks, and pavement surfacing from Exchange to Pine Street
- Evaluate the potential for traffic calming measures from Pine Street to Green Street and Elm Street to Hollis Street (e.g. Narrowing of Washington Street lane widths from Pine Street through Exchange and Hollis Street to Linden Street)
- Improve access to the Public Library and Goodwill Park
- Improve wayfinding for municipal parking lots and explore options for expansion or additional locations/options
- Create parking regulations that allow for short-term and long-term parking options
- Increase parking enforcement to discourage long-term parking
- Advocate for state to improve sidewalks from Pine Street to Highland Street
- Advocate for pedestrian features at Highland and Washington intersection

We look forward to the scheduled workshop on February 10th and would suggest that McMahon be asked to not only provide an overview of the concept and the methods used but to provide some graphics of potential streetscape features. We plan to meet on the 4th at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for the forum. Please consider attending or sending a designee.

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2. MAPC Metrowest Regional Collaborative Update

Dave Thorn provided an update of the latest Metrowest Regional Collaborative meeting and the potential to eliminate the currently vacant full-time Executive Director position, disband the MAPC satellite office and change the sub-regional model. Any change to either a 20% or 40% staff person will significantly reduce the Town's MAPC assessment. A special meeting is planned for 1/27 to vote on the options. Some discussion followed

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded. The next meeting was scheduled for February 4, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Sherman, Town Planner