

Downtown Improvement Project
Meeting: Tuesday, Sept 21, 2021

Chairperson Steve Carhart called the meeting to order at 8:33am.

In attendance were members Steve Carhart, Gar Morse, Ben Rossi, Carley Cook, Marlene Dolan, Gordon Brewster, Kurt Svetaka, and town officials Sue Brown, Chris Olney. Also in attendance were Bion Pike. Several members of the public were also in attendance.

Minutes from 8/18/2021 meeting will be reviewed at the October 19 meeting. One modification was noted and made to the draft minutes which had been circulated to the committee.

Organizational matters: Steve thanked long term Committee member Ben Rossi who will be transitioning off the committee and welcomed new member, Marlene Dolan.

Bion Pike, Harbormaster, was in attendance to provide an update on the status of discussions for a harbormaster office. The plans are on hold indefinitely due to the need to focus on the Tucks Point dockage which failed and had been condemned. No work will be done on the harbormaster office matter until the Tucks Point work is complete. Bion summarized his view of the need: MBTS is the only New England community without a harbor master office on the harbor. The Harbor Department, a public safety service, should be located next to the apparatus they respond with, like the police department and fire department. Having the office in the basement of Town Hall has caused Bion to run from office to boats due to not being sure he would be able to obtain parking or arrive sooner via car, given traffic.

The objective is for the harbor department to have a small waterfront office-not solving for public restrooms; however, the Town may decide to pursue that matter. Visual impact-- Location/Size recommendation is to ensure it is a small structure to fit within the footprint where an arborvitae is located near train tracks. Jim Brown noted that a visual sketch of the proposal would be helpful. Gordon Brewster volunteered to create a sketch in partnership with Bion and then to share transparently with the public to gain input. Carley noted that an example of what the structure could look like would be helpful.

Steve noted that DIP's interest in this matter is related to public restrooms as well as encouraging patronage to our businesses.

Chuck Dam and Nate Derosiers of the DPW were not in attendance so there was no DPW update.

Sue Brown provided a Town Planning Update (Rapid Recovery Planning Grant, LCD status, etc.): Rapid Recovery needs to be finished up by 10/8. There will be a LRR public forum on Sept. 29 to gain public input. The 40R is no longer being considered. In lieu, the committee is considering a smart roads overlay district. Board has not yet finalize their recommendations to

the consultants. The project is expected to continue through March. The location of the 40R land location is still under discussion as to whether it would be on both sides of school street (including the land where the SLV proposal is underway). No decision has been made. 40B Update: It is not yet official, but SLV has received their letter of eligibility from the state, which allows them to apply to the ZBA.

Steve recommended that the Committee complete version 2.0 of the public restroom/outdoor dining plan this fall in preparation for next season. Sue noted good to have a comprehensive view of the downtown and harbor. Gar mentioned that the temporary public restrooms adjacent to the water treatment plant are now gone and it is not clear who made the decision. Steve will follow up with Town Hall on this matter.

Gordon provided an update on the vBH contract launch- there were minor modifications made to the contract and the amended version has been received. The next step, which is underway, is to gain Greg Federspiel's signature. Jeff Bodmer-Turner informed Steve of the culvert work that will be taking place and recommended that this committee be mindful of having multiple efforts underway. Steve, Jim, Sue and Gar noted that communicating with abutters will be key to ensuring transparency.

Posting of Meeting to the MBTS website: Several town committees, including this committee, have not posted their meeting minutes in a timely manner. Steve affirmed that this matter will be rectified within the next few weeks.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 19 at 8:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Carhart and Marlene Dolan