

TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS
DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
December 8, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Brian Packish, Chair
Erik Albert

Doug Abdelnour
Chuck Sullivan
Amy Billings
Duncan Ross
Bob Whritenour
John Bradford
Gail Barmakian

ATTENDEES:

Mark Hanover
Bridgette Tobin
Peter Martell
Christine Todd (OBA)
Christine Flynn
Craig Lowe
Greg Coogan
Ross Hass
Maura McGroarty
Bob Fehl

The meeting of the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan Committee was called to order by Chairman, Brian Packish at 1:07 PM at the Steamship Authority Terminal in Oak Bluffs, MA.

Brian Packish: At last week's meeting we reviewed the only outstanding item in the Calibrated Goals. *Item #4: Improve the SSA ferry arrival welcome experience.* Mark Hanover, Island Representative for the SSA suggested we meet here at the OB Terminal for a walk through to determine the best location of signage for the OB welcoming experience.

Bridgette Tobin OB Terminal Manager advised we can't walk down because of the weather but we could get an idea from inside the ticket office.

Advised that the signs are only removed during bad weather

Additional Way-Finding:

1. Police Station area
2. Bathroom signage in SSA

I will need advance notice to get signs done. (Use the sign place in Woods Hole by the lumber company.)

Christine Todd Signs by February

Bridgette Tobin Three days prior to opening to place signs

Bob Whritenour Explore possibility of signage similar to VH welcoming sign

Mark Hanover Pick spot to place the signs:

WELCOME TO OAK BLUFFS

Sign with – OB one side and map of the island on the other side

The sign that Peter has because they constantly asking where the town is

- Brian Packish Not to congest this area – like a dead end – okay what do we do now. What we thought might help you (SSA) if we did a Welcome Sign over on the other side and a smaller map on this side which will draw the people away from your doorstep and one step closer to town
- Peter Martell Prior to 92 there was a policeman downtown and his job was information. In 1992 we built the booth and in the process came up with two signs one by the Island Queen and one down on the ramp here at SSA
- One sign read: Welcome to OB the info booth is in the center of town. On the back side of the sign said Thank You Come Again. Historically have a minimum of 50K through that info booth a year and these little maps for walking tours and it worked very well. This is a reprint.*
- Gail Barmakian Yes but we want to get people into town
- Want to put a sign that will help people determine how long it takes to get to other parts of town.
- Peter Martell People get dizzy reading too many signs. Try to reduce signs
Why are you going to add more signs you don't need.
- Brian Packish Trying to create an opportunity to inform people:
Need a sign directing people to the Information booth. Feel that people come off the boat and there is no welcoming experience.
Walk off the boat don't know if they are in VH, ED or where they are.
- #1. Potential for the WELCOME TO OAK BLUFFS signage down toward the end of the dock.
- #2. People are unaware that there is a bathroom in this SSA building and we want to place signage directing them to the restrooms.
- #3. Create a sign that directs people away from the terminal and toward town, information booth etc. then we are speeding people through this process because this is the choke point.
- What we have heard through Street Scape feedback that people have said:
“Ok we're here, now what do we do now?”
- Brian Packish Bullet point #2: Welcome sign at SSA entrance for pedestrians exiting boat ramp.

Peter Martell

So, forget Island Queen?

That's a separate conversation. Today we are hoping to identify 1) where we would like the sign down there to help get that information over to the SSA, #2) what type of signage we want out front – sounds like three signs restrooms, welcome to OB and start the process, and #3) potential further info on a smaller scale up at this end to echo what takes place down there and start directing toward town and away from SSA.

The other discussion is the VTA and the two spaces we rent over there.

What do we want to do with the buses and the taxi's.

Taxis are one block down –

Talked about trying to have a meeting with Scott – try to reach out to him

Shelley Carter

Speak to the General Manager – Chad Matell

Brian Packish

Talk to who makes the decisions. What do we want to do about signage?

Bridgette Tobin

It is cold, but you can see out the window and the only place is the very end

Amy Billings:

Up above the triangle.

A nice map like VH

Amy Billings:

How about a smaller scale for the cars coming off the boat?

Bridgette Tobin

A sign at the end of the tunnel.

DISCUSSION:

Shelley Carter:

May I suggest that anyone with a comment – one by one please –

Brian Packish

In the name of order and keeping us here as little as possible, You looked out the window you saw at the end. Welcome to OB – any other thoughts on that area. Next is the upper area where the beams are where it says taxis and buses. Mark was saying nice area with small signage with arrow INFORMATION to start steering people over that way and if able to carve out a small area for an actual map similar to what used to exist.

Peter Martell

We hand out from five to five to eight thousand of those a year

Able to create an area over there to have an actual information map so you can get across the street get some info – have a sense of where the info booth is and start the process. Everyone in agreement to that
The other signage is specific to restrooms – does anyone have any info on that

Amy Billings Down the post - with a little arrow pointing in - out there. If it's against the wall you have to look right to see it. Just *SSA Restrooms*.

Doug Abdelnour For stream lining purposes just have a Restroom sign with an arrow – whichever way they come in they run into it.

Peter Martell Problem, how many people can these restrooms accommodate? Also need another set of restrooms down by the Island Queen.

Brian Packish The Kennebec restroom is going to be more difficult to access now that we are closing the loop there.

Amy Billings Brian, since it's the last meeting till you talk to consultants – is it in our purview to put together some bullet points for the Selectman, Planning Board, whoever is in charge of who pays for what to see what we can do about the restrooms. It would be nice if the harbor funds taking care of the restroom down there (Our Market) and it was able to be taken out of the Hwy budget which obviously doesn't cover it. If the Kennebec restroom can be taken care of out of Parks or split the cost so the bathrooms actually get taken care of. Or to get a service because we are just hiring random people to clean the bathrooms and they are disgusting. The one at the end of the harbor is a mess. Can we make a recommendation to somebody?

Brian Packish I would imagine if we were going to attempt that, we would do in the same manner as the Park & Ride and the Exploration of Metered Parking from the Street Scape to the Planning Board and the Planning Board then send to the Selectman and put it forth.

Christine Flynn I make a motion that we recommend to the selectman that they develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the maintenance and improvements of all restrooms. That means as far as hiring an outside company to do it. It has to be put on the front burner and a priority. I am tired of reading how many people have a really bad experience in these restrooms and it's an embarrassment to the town. It really needs to be taken seriously.

Peter Martell Add to motion the *expansion of*

Gail Barmakian We are going to recommend to have a comprehensive plan and consider how it will be funded.

Brian Packish Second to the motion: two seconds
DISCUSSION
All in favor
VOTE: 9-0-0

Mark Hanover Suggest on a nice day – several members of the committee, Bridgette you and I come down and pick the exact spots, take the measurements and determine exactly what you want on them.

Brian Packsih The SSA has someone they work with for their signage and design. , is there availability for that person to do some potential work for us obviously you want continuity

Mark Hanover The big sign down there you want the cottage city seal and welcome to OB that is a little more involved and we'll find somebody.

Bob Whritenour Maybe while we're all here good time to discuss the Park & Ride. We are working with the Selectman and with the committee and we have a proposal. We are putting together to start a small scale P&R that would also service the SSA this summer. If we utilize that 50% participation that would mean we would be looking for approx. 10K this summer to get the Park & Ride off the ground Try to use the parking lot behind the parish hall and that is maybe 50 spaces and we are going to do a run between from there to downtown Steamship and keep it a circular route and we will also work with the VTA and put some structure together with that. Contact you formally and send a letter.

Ross Hass Send the letter to Wayne and he will give it to the Port Counsel and then the SSA itself. Our meetings are the first Wednesday of the month. January 7th

Mark Hanover SSA Board meets meetings are third Tuesday of every month

Bob Whritenour Do we have time?

Mark Hanover The reason Tisbury had so much trouble is because they were very vague about what they wanted to do and they did not have their number together. The Port Counsel did not move it to the board for that very reason. You have to have everything spelled out very clearly for it to get through the Port Counsel.

Bob Whritenour We have some ideas and we are going to talk the specifics in the Roads and By Ways meeting on the 17th, not able to get a letter to you before Christmas. It is a small effort to start, but could help reduce the congestion in this area. Maybe the BOS will have to consider this some changes in the downtown parking with the reduction of some 24 hour spaces. Hopefully with the Park & Ride one of the things we want to give folks a place to park.

Mark Hanover The tour buses from off island's biggest complaint there is no place to park. If the tour buses could park for a couple of hours they would stay in OB

Brian Packish We need to discuss the spaces we do currently rent for buses – three up here and two down there and are rented for very limited amounts of money. We should consider one of the spaces be a space for any bus. In VH they pay \$5K for the space.

Bridgette Tobin I always let the buses park right there – they leave immediately – they come back and park for two hours. By that time – Scotty doesn't need that spot and then they know there bus is right there to go back on the 3:45 PM

Gail Barmakian See if we can coordinate the bus spaces with Scott

Brian Packish Anything else to discuss today?

Gregg Coogan Is there any other reason other than that across the street to have a place for buses.

Bridgette Tobin The curb too, but the problem with that is that's where everybody comes and picks up their people. So my guys always try to find a row for an extra bus.

Bridgette Tobin It looks insane but it's okay. They leave do their tour come back and shop

Amy Billings If they come for the day what boats do they come on?

Bridgette Tobin The come in at 9:30 OB first, then 10:45 into VH - They leave 3:45 and 5:00 a couple eat dinner here and leave on 7:15.

 That is there schedule and our customer service rep sets it up for them.

DISCUSSION ON BUSES:

Brian Packish Any more questions

MOTION TO ADJOURN:??

SECOND: ??

VOTE: All