

TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS
DOWNTOWN STREETScape MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
November 3, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Brian Packish, Chair
Christine Todd
Erik Albert
Duncan Ross
Amy Billings
Gail Barmakian
John Bradford
Chuck Sullivan

ATTENDEES:

Bob Whritenour
Christine Flynn
Craig Lowe
Stephanie Meshak
Primo Lombardi

The meeting of the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan Committee was called to order by Chairman, Brian Packish at 1:08 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 56 School Street in Oak Bluffs, MA.

Brian Packish: Duncan, I talked to Christine, Amy Chuck and I am asking everyone to review bullet points and put together a list of their own bullet points like Christine did
Motivation: Next four meeting be able to move through the bulk of this we seem to get bogged won

Suggest number bullet points

Amy Billings Are we doing these in order? The next is *Bullet #3 Strengthen linkages between Kennebec/Circuit North Bluff, he CMA, public restrooms and Ocean Park.*

Brian Packish Different – some overlapping

The one we are working on right now is the Calibrated Goals *Bullet#2 Improve/enlarge the Circuit/Kennebec Avenue pedestrian experience while providing a net parking gain within a 5-minute walk and preserving parking near convenience businesses and welcoming pedestrian experience.*

Last week a motion from Duncan to:

Prioritize the improvement of the pedestrian experience in the downtown area

Some of the things I have heard over and over that seem to have good support

1. Widen and replace the existing sidewalks on Circuit Ave with a preference to preserve as many parking spaces as possible; diagonal?

- 2 Replace benches seating underneath the street trees
- 3 Support a review of the existing street trees and create a plan for the future. Are we keeping trees, trees won't live forever, need a vision
4. Work with the MVCMA to make the entrance a more pedestrian friendly experience. A Way Finding issue
5. Explore parking options from Nancy's to Our Market on both sides (Not sure – lots of plans - various scenarios – needs discussion)
6. Link Circuit, Kennebec, Ocean Park sidewalks and pedestrian areas including lines of sight to the park and the ocean. Provide a safe pedestrian access to the Kennebec stores and restaurants
7. Review and provide space and time frames for deliveries, trash pick-up, loading zones, etc on Circuit Ave

Bullet Points per Christine Todd's Handout:

Circuit Avenue and Kennebec Avenue

- Parking – support parallel parking or a mixture of both on Circuit Ave and one of both sides of Kennebec Avenue
- Sidewalks – support widening sidewalks on both sides of circuit Avenue and one or both sides of Kennebec Avenue
- Increased Seating – throughout Healey Square along Circuit Avenue and Kennebec Avenue
- Uniform lighting tying circuit Avenue, Healey square and Kennebec Ave together
- Plantings – explore shade producing manageable plantings along Circuit and Kennebec in Square
- Monument at top of Circuit
- Better use of land at bottom of circuit and Kennebec where Police Department is.
- Metered Parking in entire area (with first – fifteen minutes free)
- Widening the existing sidewalks on Circuit Avenue

Christine Todd I think it is a good idea for everyone on a weekly basis to review bullet points and submit to you some ideas for your review at the meeting.

Erik Albert some overlap with his list

Chuck Sullivan There are a lot of details
Metered parking – to Lake Avenue
How and when does that tie into the engineer’s report – so we say we are going to lose X amount of parking on Circuit

Brian Packish That is why I included as a bullet point

Funding issue – target area

Brian Packish I met with the owner of the Lampost who sent a letter supporting widening the sidewalk.

John Bradford Talk about changing the parking”
Perpendicular parking 9 feet
Consultant’s spaces are 12 feet – sure seem wider than nine feet
If we redo can pick up space around the trees
I will measure the spaces

Chuck Sullivan Part of decision has to do with trees and the layout
Compact cars only

Christine Todd If we have to remove - is it possible to relocate trees?

Brian Packish They would be disposed of

Duncan Ross Trees have historical significance because planted for centennial
Existing trees are approximately 34 years old

DISCUSSION ON CIRCUIT AVE TREES

Amy Billings Are we stuck on seating for the trees – take up a lot of room
Half- moon bench with trees to the side?
If we are stuck on making sidewalk wider - how are we prevent the cigarette smokers – why people walk/cross the street
Go outside to smoke - not supposed to smoke on Circuit Ave - (No Healey Sq)
The problem with that area is the people smoking – Too tight
Designated spaces (Lampost/Ritz) in the back for smoking

Brian Packish Before we move to smoking – close out trees. Two bullet points I put together:

#2. Benches and seating under the street trees
Support a review of existing street trees to create a plan for the future

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE STREET TREES

Duncan will find out for next meeting what kind of trees they are

Brian Packish Let's continue with sidewalks

Chuck Sullivan The Ritz to Ben & Bills needs to parallel

Amy Billings Loading zone in front of Linda Jean's to stay for certain hours

John Bradford Suggest try next summer as a Pilot program
Traffic flow, concerned about blockage with parallel parking

DISCUSSION ON PARKING – PARK & RIDE

Brian Packish Expand the bullets to read

1. Widen and replace the existing sidewalks on Circuit Ave with a preference to preserve as many existing parking spaces as possible. and maximize potential Pilot Program for parallel parking at the bottom of Circuit Ave to the G & B Building

John Bradford Move some of delivery trucks

Not getting the curbs coming out

Brian Packish Average width for a space is seven eight feet. Have a bullet point

Christine F I think maybe analyze for the winter – with a few scenario. Get some measurements

Brian Packish They are eager for us to get this info to them – good idea.

Next bullet point to discuss at the end

7. Review and provide space and time frames for deliveries, trash pick-up, loading zones, etc. on Circuit Ave

Delivery is hard because some of these trucks are going all over the island
Unfair to say you can only drop off till noon. May be favorable to restaurants
– not have deliveries during lunch

John Bradford sometimes UPS makes several trips in the summer

Amy Billings How many do we need – do we need parking in front of Edgartown National Bank. Kennebec has a huge delivery area - Is it necessary

DISCUSSION HOW BUSINESSES GET DELIVERIES

- Brian Packish Craig, can you tell us how the campground and their current position on deliveries?
- Craig Lowe They are restricted from 9:00 – 2:00 am. All Residential leases on a year to year basis. Commercial/Property leases are five to ten years on All business on Circuit Avenue have Back Door lease.
- Duncan Ross A lot of trucks up to the Post Office
- Brian Packish With 16 Circuit going in (constructed) will be changes
Review trash pick-p on Circuit/Kennebec
Edgartown's time frames for deliveries is prior to 10:00 am
Discussion on town trash pickup – not working
- Chuck Sullivan Not enough trash barrels
- John Bradford Disney's trash receptacles every 18 feet because study showed people will walk 20 feet to throw something away.
- Duncan Trash barrels at each tree area that has seating/benches
- Brian Packish Next item Review and provide space and time frames for deliveries, trash pick-up, loading zones, etc. on Circuit and Kennebec Ave. Explore increasing numbers of trash barrels/receptacles
Set up a process
- Bob Whritenour Gives the opportunity to tie into an overall maintenance plan to improve trash pick up
- Amy Billings Complaints about trucks picking up (Bruno's) etc. to early in the AM
- Christine Todd Do we encourage the pedestrian experience or satisfying the masses?

DISCUSSION - MORE TRASH PICK UP

- Brian Packish Next item is
6. Link Circuit, Kennebec, Ocean Park sidewalks and pedestrian areas including lines of sight to the park and the ocean. Provide a safe pedestrian access to the Kennebec stores and restaurants
- Chuck Sullivan Healy Way more a pedestrian way - add some granite, cobblestone, etc.)
Can move loading zones - Four parking spots that could be utilized
- Amy Billings Parking for 15 Minutes only not enforced – Enforcement is an issue
Business owners parking there most of the day

Brian Packish What do we think:
Link Circuit, Kennebec, Ocean Park sidewalks and pedestrian areas including lines of sight to the park and the ocean. Provide a safe pedestrian access to the Kennebec stores and restaurants. Explore loading zone times and locations. Has to do with a sidewalk on the restaurant side

Christine Todd It is crazy on Kennebec

John Bradford Jimmy Seas area a challenge

Bob Whritenour What about public restrooms are they on a separate item. Preliminary to have a little plaza

Brian Packish I agree, our next Calibrated Goal would be item: *Bullet #3 Strengthen linkages between Kennebec/Circuit North Bluff, he CMA, public restrooms and Ocean Park.*

Christine Todd In that item *Strengthen linkages* would consistency in lighting and appearances fall into this at this point?

Bob Whitenour Lighting is huge, what is it going to be like at night?

Chuck Sullivan I noticed two poles at the end of Circuit Ave with lights – are they in service? Couple of wires – otherwise no lights

 Where: Down by the Glimpse of Tibet and The Black Dog

Brian Packish Does lighting fall under the “universal design principles”?

 The next item is:
 Work with the MVCMA to make the entrance a more pedestrian friendly experience. A Way Finding issue

Amy Billings Tabernacle Ave (entrance to MVCMA) but people don’t realize.

 Public or Private – reference to a map
 That is a Way Finding option

 DISCUSSION ON MVCMA and WAY FINDING

Brian Packish Next item

 5. Explore parking options from Nancy’s to Our Market on both sides of the road.

 Connecting the sidewalk – near Sunset to whatever we end up doing.
 Police said we need a sidewalk if we intend to do parking

John Bradford Consider diagonal parking on the Wesley Hotel side, eliminating spaces on Harbor side. Move bike path, this will open up the view to the harbor

Craig Lowe Trash receptacles for the boats (Nancy's - Our Market)
Brian Packish Out of our scope we are trying to tie in

5. Explore parking options from Nancy's to Our Market on both sides of the road. Create pedestrian friendly walkways to tie the MVCMA, harbor and parks together

TALK ABOUT PARKING ---

Brian Packish Move on Christine provided bullet points as well – four we have completed

Uniform lighting tying Circuit Avenue, Healey Square and Kennebec Ave together and continue to work with existing light poles from the Friends of OB

How do we feel about lighting?

COMMITTEE FEELS GOOD IDEA COMMENTS:

Christine Todd Move lights, but not eliminate them
Safety and consistency
Direct people to Kennebec – relieving traffic on Circuit

Bob Whritenour Access to power in the lighting during the holidays, etc.

Brian Packish How about: *Uniform lighting tying circuit Avenue, Healey square and Kennebec Ave together, continue to work with existing poles from the Friends of OB*

Christine's 6th Bullet - Monument at top of Circuit
Christine can you expand a little –

Christine Todd I think there was a planned monument
Entrance from Circuit Ave to oak Bluffs – could be focal point, point of interest (traffic calming)

Brian Packish Explore traffic calming options with the potential inclusion of a monument at top of Circuit Avenue

Chuck Avenue All around Union Chapel could be angled parking instead of parallel on both sides Narragansett and Grove – Samoset only on one side
Narrow the street, people would drive slower and it would be safer and add parking spaces

Bob Whritenour There's another benefit to a feature at far up CA – for the pedestrian experience for people that enter Circuit Avenue from that end – it would finish the walk – people not sure what to do.

Stores at that end may not want it

DISCUSSION ON SIDEWALKS BY UNION CHAPEL

Brian Packish Okay, how about: *Explore traffic calming, parking options and pedestrian experience with a potential monument at end of Circuit Avenue and around Union chapel linking walkways to the rest of the commercial district.*

Christine's next item: Better use of land at bottom of Circuit and Kennebec where Police Department is.

Christine Todd Lot of wasted space, there are 19 spaces at the police department – between the parking spaces and the land –

And the awkward parking space in back

Brian Packish Should be a point of discussion on its own

Christine Todd The last one is the metered Parking in entire area (with first – fifteen minutes free)

Bob Whritenour We did not settle who was going to come: Selectman, Roads, By- Ways Planning Board and Street Scape are all interested. Decided to send a letter to the Selectman and they entered it

How do we make it happen? who is going to ask him to come?

The only person who knows who he is?

Can we invite someone?

Bob Whritenour Committee not ready for an RFP needs financing/funding

Have them come down and explain – they will do for free

Bob Whritenour Bob has a person who knows how to approach and he is willing

Brian Packish Set up a meeting with Roads & By-Ways are all on board. Bob ready to move forward and coordinate a meeting with committees and the Vendor that is open to the public.

Goal in the next 4-6 weeks to have information off to the consultant

Let's review the bullets created today:

1. Widen and replace the existing sidewalks on Circuit Ave with a preference to preserve as many existing parking spaces as possible.

and maximize width. Potential Pilot Program for parallel parking at the bottom of Circuit Ave to the G & B Building

2. Benches and seating under the street trees
Support a review of existing street trees to create a plan for the future.

MORE TREE DISCUSSION – for REVIEW

3. Work with the MVCMA to make the entrance a more pedestrian friendly experience. Including Way Finding issue
4. Explore parking options from Nancy’s to Our Market on both sides of the road. Create pedestrian friendly walkways to tie the MVCMA, harbor and parks together
5. Link Circuit, Kennebec, Ocean Park sidewalks and pedestrian areas including lines of sight to the park and the ocean. Provide a safe pedestrian access to the Kennebec businesses. Explore loading zone times and locations
6. Review and provide space and time frames for deliveries, trash pick-up, on Circuit and Kennebec Ave. Explore increasing numbers/style of trash barrels/receptacles.
7. Explore uniform lighting tying Circuit Avenue, Healey Square and Kennebec Ave together, continue to work with existing poles provided through the Friends of OB
8. Explore traffic calming, parking options and pedestrian experience with a potential monument at end of Circuit Avenue and around Union Chapel linking walkways to the rest of the commercial district.

Brian Packish That covers Item #2

MOTION: John Bradford Motion to move these items on to the consultant

SECOND: Duncan Ross

VOTE: 7-0-0

Erik Albert Way- Finding Committee meeting last week, a brief synopsis

Summary: Fishing Pier Campground, Downtown area, Harbor, Flying Horses, Town beaches, all bathrooms, Taxis and buses, information booth, Police department, Post office, Healy Square, park Library, tennis courts, East Chop lighthouse, etc. Mainly we agree with the beach walk and harbor walk. Talk about having a historical point there – the way it used to look with pics of the old beach houses.

Brian Packish Next Items will be *Bullet #3 Strengthen linkages between Kennebec/Circuit North Bluff, the CMA, public restrooms and Ocean Park.*

If everyone can review and come up with specific ideas and come up with a list of bullet points

MOTION: Erik Albert
SECOND: Duncan Ross
VOTE: 9-0-1 (Chuck)

MEETING ADJOURNED @ 2:32 PM