

Check Attendance

TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS
DOWNTOWN STREETScape MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
October 7, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Brian Packish, Chair
Doug Abdelnour
Erik Albert
Amy Billings
Duncan Ross
John Bradford
Chuck Sullivan

ATTENDEES:

Renee Balter
Jeremiah McCarthy
Bob Whritenour
Terry McCarthy
Craig Lowe
Stephanie Meshak
Jake Gifford
Christine Flynn (MVC Staff)

The meeting of the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan Committee was called to order by Chairman, Brian Packish at 4:13 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 56 School Street in Oak Bluffs, MA.

Brian Packish: Minutes are not ready.

Move to the discussion on the Way-Finding Committee.

Thank you all for coming out.

We are forming a Sub Committee of the Streetscape Committee to work specifically on the subject of Way Finding; signage, explore possibility of electronic apps, anything that would fall under the basics of Way-Finding. It will be a Sub-Committee to this committee and then this committee will report back to the Planning Board as part of our meeting process.

We need to determine the Chairman piece of the Way Finding Committee. The list of people that responded positively:

Doug Abdelnour	Stephanie Mashek
Erik Albert	Jeremiah McCarthy
Renee Balter	Sondra Murphy
Jake Gifford	Kerry Scott
Primo Lombardi	Mark Wallace
Craig Lowe	

Shelley Carter

Mr. McCarthy does not wish to be included on this list.

Brian Packish Personally I imagine that Erik Albert would be a good choice for Chairman because he is on the Planning Board, the Street Scape Committee and obviously the Way Finding Committee.

DISCUSSION: Kerry Scott enters the meeting and informs the meeting that she will not be able to commit, however would like to be able to vote for Erik. Brian informs that we are discussing Erik for Chair

REQUEST FOR EMAIL CONTACT LIST OF ALL IN ATTENDANCE

Brian Packish Shelley can you send out an email with everyone's information
Shelley Carter Yes

MOTION: Duncan Ross made a motion to appoint Erik Albert, Chariman of the Way Finding Committee

SECOND: Amy Billings

VOTE: 6-0-0

Brian Packish Continue discussion on North Bluff

Amy Billings Are we moving away from the whole idea of one way traffic? It seems there was a lot of confusion

Brian Packish A lot of discussion amongst those in attendance

Dour Abdelnour I don't think we're all on the same page as far as understanding what they came up with. I know it is not set in stone, but I didn't understand it last week and as the discussion continued I could tell other people (audience) really didn't understand their version of this plan.

Chuck Sullivan Keep in mind that this was done by people not from here – a couple of days walking around – most people who work in this area don't agree on the one way out and I agree, I don't think its wide enough for two way, but I think the one way in now makes the most sense. Whether the Seaview Ave Extension should be one way out probably is the wrong idea too. It has to be weighed with the parking and the other would-be benefits that would result if that would be one way out.

Amy Billings May not be a good idea on the Steamship side

Chuck Sullivan Would not affect the Steamship really – everyone has to go out that way

Erik Albert Problems with the elimination of parking I would rather talk about the end
John Bradford That is a bottleneck area

Chuck Sullivan 18 years ago there was a plan for that area; food, bathrooms initially discussed but shot down by the bus companies because their buses were

being moved from that area. In the town records trying to get a copy of that plan from Phil Regan to show what that looks like.

Amy Billings The neighbors didn't like the route. I would like to see that plan

Chuck Sullivan I will dig up the old plans, talk to Colleen about digging something up

Renee Balter I believe there are several different plans at the MVC talk to Bill Veno

Chirstine Flynn Bill actually just sent me right before the meeting some preliminary plans of what the Selectman want for the OB area from 2006 – 2008. He just pulled them out

Brian Packish Please forward to Shelley and she can copy and copy for our next meeting

Kerry Scott Subject of extensive reviews about the commission that latest federally funded plan for the ferry terminal and used the DCPC process to have it reviewed because the neighbors were so up in arms about the size of the ferry terminal. She stopped the process through the MVC because they were getting ready to break ground and it had not been reviewed. It did get reviewed by the DCPC process but pre dates 2006

Doug Abdelnour I believe they lost the funding for that project.

Kerry Scott Inspector General's office in an 18 month period could not find the 345K. All those plans exist at the MVC only thing that could not be located was the original application, it completed disappeared.

Brian Packish Opportunity to start a new discussion and maybe draw up a process that works for everyone

Terry McCarthy How many bus spaces and cab spaces have to be there?

Brian Packish Bob is that three spaces?

Bob Whritenour Two committed bus spaces. I don't have a count on the cab spaces just an area they park

Brian Packish Two bus spaces rented and cab spaces are not rented just designated in a specific area

Renee Balter Kerry is talking about the plan that included some kind of a shelter for people waiting to get on those boats. I am talking about the bulkhead was going to be redone and the commission volunteered Bill Veno to help with plans and included islands in the middle of the road for cabs and it was a better organized in that area

- Brian Packish Even if it's two different projects – one great project will come from it
- The traffic patterns: for me and I heard from neighbors, it is problematic having all the traffic come in and around.
 Question: Keep the way it is with two way traffic at top of the NB in and out the lower piece.
 Question is keep that one way – is there any merit in reversing that piece of the traffic pattern so that you no longer came in by the Strand Theater. You still came in one way but you did have two ways out. You can turn around at the end and you can still leave by the SSA or you can continue driving through the rest of the commercial district and come out by the Strand and head out of town.
- Chuck Sullivan Overall consensus No, going in down by the Strand (Movie Theatre) makes more sense than coming out. Because the only viable option coming out is to take a right and head down Lake Avenue and To cut across three lanes of traffic to Circuit Ave.
- Brian Packish You're not going to make it
- Doug Abdelnour To me, making it to the boats is more important that your exit out. If you had to drop someone off and there is only one way in by SSA – area gets too congested. Will have to come in Beach Road to drop someone off to make it across that whole intersection, there are more entrances if you leave it as is
- Erik Albert The change is too complicated. Let's see what we can do in this area in the end (a roundabout?) a park or Amy's suggestions (Plaza) for the ability to hold events.
- Doug Abdelnour This plan the way they have it set up is designed to be a one way plan whatever direction you are going in because the reason this looks so pretty and so much green space and area ... If Seaview Ave is two way this part has to become something else – it is such a cluster now – people go down and have to figure out a way to turn around to come back up the only one way – coming back the same way and that would significantly change how that as designed.
- Chuck Sullivan The other option would be to make the inside from the Dockside down to the Island Queen make that two way. Two way to Island Queen two ways to Pasque Avenue if one way in a lot more parallel parking available. Their design focuses on increased parking.
- Terry McCarthy One issue to me has always been that cluster down by the Island Queen and the reason is there is only one way out. Making one way at Lookout two way to Saco; and one way from Pasque. A roundabout - people have options and might ease some of that.

Chuck Sullivan Probably get a lot of push back because it is a small residential street.

Brian Packish That area is wide and there is the potential for that to be two way.
Where do the lines actually fall for Dockside? To the Road

Renee Balter The Patriot (boat) and parking – Plan takes away a lot of this area – unless you are going to move the buses which need room to maneuver.

Amy Billings Not necessarily grass and park but not just parking. Mark Wallace mentioned a seashell type of thing down at the end so Patriot people could still pull up load and unload. Not just green space the ability to drive on – but not allow parking further down

Renee Balter Maybe ask Jim Tegan or Keegan to come to a meeting. He is a good source of information. Jim is very positive

Brian Packish I think as you define that area will have opportunity to design; room for deletion of pavement in that area, define the area a little better.
Harbor walk that runs the harbor – I personally in the name of creating usable space for everyone person – not just the boat passengers - if you had to dollar your stuff down an extra 20 feet till you got to the proper walkway – in the name of a greater good – there is room for deletion of pavement in that area. If this area is defined a little better it would work better, there are so many material options to use to allow both walking and driving.

John Branford People get off the Island Queen forced in the street – if we were to move the staging area for the passengers boarding the IQ down toward the entrance to the harbor. Then those exiting would have access to the bulkhead

Renee Balter That was the plan we were going to have all the passengers exiting the boats be closer to the water and walk all along sidewalk and not be directed out into the street.
The ferry said the walkway had to extended out about 16 feet and that means that the passengers coming off are not going to walk around all these people cluttering to get on the boat. They take the path of least resistance.

Craig Lowe
John Bradford Move them toward the jetty. Line them up the other way

Renee Balter That was another suggestion Great idea !

Jeremiah McCarthy “Disney style” staging to maximize the space

John Bradford Is there seating down there ?

- Jeremiah McCarthy Would be a nicer place to wait with a plaza design and it would also provide shade
- Brian Packish Link harbor with the North Bluff boardwalk, the fishing pier and clearly a link that needs to be completed between all these projects that will potentially take place. Streetscape Committee is not charged with drawing in every last detail, etc. we are looking to iron out concepts and hopefully find the funding. Once funded a couple of phases; the design phase, public process and then the actual construction.
- The North Bluff portion of the process is the traffic pattern - majority people would like to see it stay the same, some support for potentially making Circuit Av Extension potentially increasing to two way down toward Pasque Ave, so that makes a two way loop that will exist around in there or staying the same.
- Erik Albert Drop off at the Island Queen, you are lost
- Doug Abdelnour My vote to make Seaview Ave one way going opposite direction
- Brian Packish My personal opinion it needs to stay two way
- Doug Abdelnour Doesn't agree with the traffic pattern down at the bulkhead – it needs a circular motion allows more parking on the Bluff – don't like the direction.
- Brian Packish Pasque two ways

DISCUSSION CONTINUES WITH REFERENCE TO MAPS – not clear

- Stephanie Meshak Please go to the board so the audience can see what's being discussed
- Chuck Sullivan One way in with a sidewalk to gain pedestrian access
- Amy Billings What if Pasque Ave restricted to daytime delivery parking only, "Loading zone" for the majority of the day. Then at night open to public parking for everyone??
- Kerry Scott Disclosed that she owns a store on other end of Circuit Avenue. If you change the direction you'll compromise going up Circuit Avenue (the state's current design). People are having trouble finding Circuit Avenue. Talk about Way Finding – need a good sign for Oak Bluffs
- Amy Billings Theory on three lane traffic – there would only be two lanes – they are proposing parking by Dreamland
- Kerry Scott Current design is taking people away from Circuit Avenue

Should be helping people get to Circuit Avenue, issue with employee parking, worry about making decision just about parking.
Lots to resolve but needs to be more pedestrian friendly, a bigger map might be more useful and more parking – and better vehicle accessibility.
And could we have a little trolley system.

Amy Billings Not interested in more parking - interested in coming up with Park & Ride for employees for daytime and nighttime, however it works. Next area Circuit Ave and Kennebec there are a lot of issues I have up there.
Hope everyone takes the time to review and reflect on their (consultants) outlook and that is why we are discussing here and now.

Brian Packish We are specifically discussing the North Bluff because the consultants prepared this in three clear and different designs to formulate and start exactly what we are doing.

We've found other areas and points of discussion. We tentatively agreed that massive changes to the road patterns will not work and we are finishing that up today. We heard a lot of public input from the resident's and property owners, however, as a committee we have not had the opportunity to discuss amongst ourselves until now.

We all agreed that

- We need better management of the people on and off the ferry
- We need better management of the people accessing Circuit Ave Extension by foot.
- We have a new boardwalk running along the beach between the SSA and the Island Queen and we all agree we need a link between the "harbor walk" and the "fishing pier walk".
- We are not close to what they will look like but we are in agreement as to what we need.

John Bradford Go back to deliveries on Pasque Ave - move parking to the other side of the street

Chuck Sullivan Seaside Hotel area needs to be cleaned up and can add more parking.

Amy Billings Clean up and specify curb cuts – clarify the use of this area

Kerry Scott Can we specify a time for deliveries – lots of towns do that

Amy Billings We can try but if the boat doesn't run – I don't think you can enforce

John Bradford Not so much the time but that they all come at the same time.

Chuck Sullivan 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM (commercial loading zone) after 6:00 PM parking

Brian Packish Need to clearly define these areas, mark the spaces and insure easy to get in and out.

Kerry Scott Just make the area more hospitable - getting around over there is a nightmare. Focus on pedestrian safety and aesthetics and if we could put something in place for next summer. There is federal money available for linking the harbor and fishing pier walks to move people around safely

Brian Packish There is federal money for "Green Scape" as well. The Conversation Commission submitted a letter and their primary concern with this project this is the 100 year flood plain and we do have an opportunity to soften any of this asphalt

We spend time discussing from the street perspective we have a harbor as good if not better than a lot in the northeast. The amount of people that come in and for the first time they see Oak Bluffs is when they come through that jetty. It is not a representation of who and what we are and thankfully many people venture past that section and see there are a lot of beautiful places. Yes, function is huge and aesthetics and I feel strong that this area out here toward the end near the parking lot is a really great opportunity to design a really great space that could be of value to everybody. I support that portion of it personally.

OPEN DISCUSSION

RB The commission did four plans and they did all the measurements about how much space you need for bus turning, traffic patterns, created islands that were beautiful and technical measurements. I agree with Amy and Kerry parking not immediate concern downtown. Turn existing parking from parallel to diagonal and a green park at the North Bluff.

Chuck Sullivan RLW Jr's bluff reconstruction plan and put in conjunction with some of these options

Doug Abdelnour There are three walkways that are same width of the fishing pier walkway.

Chuck Sullivan Will still need sidewalk on other side for people to access their cars

Amy Billings Small sidewalk in front of Lookout

RECORDER TIMED OUT

Brian Packish Wider?

Chuck Sullivan Sidewalk on west side of Seaview Avenue

Kerry Scott	Parallel parking/ would hate to see parking in front of resident homes
John Bradford	Take existing sidewalk and move over five (5) feet to widen the road
Amy Billings	Agrees to create a sidewalk on the other side of the street
Duncan Ross Brian Packish	No need to have two sidewalks Only one access to the fishing pier Plaza area has not been defined (Bob's Plan)
Renee Balter	Ten foot wide boardwalk – forget about sidewalk on the interior
Brian Packish	Sidewalk on the house sides with crosswalks leading to the water Crushing existing wall; push it back and run the walkway down
Amy Billings	Federal funding to rebuild the beach
John Bradford	Where does your property line end?
Chuck Sullivan	Edge of property line a Lookout is a two foot from the front of the building.
Kerry Scott	”Handicap walkway” will be a must
Brian Packish	Incorporation of “universal design” on/in the “Calibrated Goals”
Kerry Scott	Everything will have to be put up to code. Request layout of the roads from the Town Clerk and ask Bobby Rose to come and comment
Brian Packish	North Bluff Reconstruction Map – MVC
Erik Albert	Connect/link the area near Nancy's and the Campgrounds
<i>Jake Gifford</i>	<i>left the meeting</i>
Stephanie Meshak	Thinks one way idea is a good one! Promotes pedestrian safety when cars move in only one direction
Amy Billings	Enforcement is key to traffic pattern
John Bradford	Need a traffic study as well
Stephanie Meshak	Fewer backups with the one way route
Erik Albert	People living next to “commercial properties” just have to deal with it
Brian Packish	Drop off potential for Hy-Line traffic (currently three spaces and 1 handicap)

Brian Packish The next meeting: Monday, October 14, 2014 @1:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 5:40 PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Erik Albert
SECOND: Brian Packish
VOTE: