

Sudbury Center Improvement Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
March 6, 2014  
9:00 AM  
Flynn Building

PRESENT: Rich Davison, Deborah Kruskal, Frank Riepe, Jim Hodder, Joe Sziabowski, Larry O'Brien, Bill Place, Jan Hardenberg, Jody Kablack

The minutes of June 10, 2013 were approved. The 2013 Annual Town Report was approved.

Jody Kablack gave a recap of the February 27, 2014 meeting with the VHB engineers. Although there was not a quorum of the SCIAC, many ideas were presented at that meeting which need a vote of the SCIAC in order to proceed. The main revision to the plan was the recommendation by VHB to utilize 1 mast arm in the intersection in order to narrow the pavement and reduce signage and clutter. The mast arm would be located at the corner of First Parish and would only have to be 20-25' in length (20 ft. tall). The width of the crosswalks would be reduced, and the need for crosswalk timers would be eliminated. A mast arm would also eliminate a potential issue with the high voltage NStar transmission line which is located in a shallow conduit directly under the intersection. This transmission line could affect the automatic loop detectors for new signals. Overhead vehicle detection could be mounted on a mast arm.

After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the final engineering plans include 1 mast arm to be located at the southeastern corner of First Parish. This recommendation will be noted in a memo to the Selectmen to be prepared by Jody Kablack, and presented at the Selectmen's meeting on March 11, 2014.

The SCIAC had further questions for VHB for consideration of the next set of plans:

1. Will there still be separate left turn phases with the mast arm? Or can they now be combined?
2. Provide cut sheets for what the signal boxes will look like. The idea is to go as small and sleek as possible - minimal boxing around the lights.
3. Will the left turn movements need stripes on the pavement directing cars exactly where to go? We want to avoid that if possible.
4. Want very simple poles and mast arms, as small and thin as possible. May want an arching mast arm. Provide Photoshop images with a straight arm and an arching arm.
5. Provide cut sheets for the simple poles and mast arms.
6. The committee is still deciding between colors for the poles and mast arm.
7. Provide more options for the crosswalk pattern and colors? SCIAC is leaning towards a gray cobble texture.
8. Want the triangular island to be curbed and mulched. Not a hard surface. We will figure out what to do with it when we engage a landscape architect. Also extend a water service connection to the triangular island for landscaping purposes.
9. Remove the walkways in Grinnell Park, on the town common (except for the 1 parallel to the street), and in front of Town Hall (except for the one parallel to the street). These will be located in the landscape phase.
10. Widen the cross walk from Town Hall to the common to the width of the driveway, as discussed at the meeting. This displaces some parking.
11. Provide alternatives to parking on the Town Hall side of the No Name Rd.
12. Review sketch of the First Parish parking that has been proposed by a member of the committee. Does it work? Any other solutions?

13. Add a small island on Old Sudbury Road at the crosswalk to Town Hall to protect pedestrians in the crosswalk.
14. Tighten the radius of the curbing at the northern end of the Common to discourage left turn movements heading north.

The Committee then discussed the Landscape Plan. The components will include the front of Town Hall, walkway surface and locations, traffic islands, trees and other plantings, lighting, 15 Hudson Road, Grinnell Park, pedestrian circulation in general. The plan should be circulated to the Fire Chief for his opinion on the front of Town Hall. Does the Fire Dept. need this area to be paved for public safety reasons?

Jody Kablack noted that once the next set of plans are ready, permits for Scenic Road changes from the Planning Board, and a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Districts Commission will be submitted and public hearings held. The final permitting will be from the Conservation Commission for wetland and stormwater matters.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm