

Sudbury Center Improvement Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
6/9/17  
9:03 a.m.  
Flynn Bldg

PRESENT: Committee Members: Frank Riepe, Deborah Kruskal, Richard Davidson,  
Town Staff: Meagen Donoghue, Director of Planning & Community Development and Dan  
Nason, DPW Director  
Others: Patty Walsh, Sudbury Garden Club

Mr. Davidson explained the ownership of the triangle indicating First Parish owns the piece and relinquished it up to widen the road and have the wires buried underground. He further indicated that former DPW Director Bill Place put in the electrical box, but needs to be moved. Mr. Davidson opined that it's the Town's problem to move it. Mr. Riepe indicated the former Director of Planning worked to get the payment down with the power company and it needs to be moved.

Introductions were then done for Mr. Nason who was in attendance for his first SCIAC meeting.

Mr. Riepe indicated that the projects for the Town Center were approved and needs to be worked on. He referred to Ms. Kruskal's drawing, pointing out a segment of the walkway was not finished and wondered why Mr. Place did not complete it, but instead there is an irrigation system installed. Mr. Riepe asked if there was an as-built plan. Mr. Nason said there was not, and also wondered why the irrigation system was installed. Mr. Riepe said it should be put on the Walkway Program and to be finished this year.

Ms. Kruskal asked about a post in the middle of the walkway. Mr. Riepe noted it was not a light pole.

Mr. Riepe addressed the south-west corner, under the tree, there is an electrical vault and noted Eversource verified it was abandoned, but never removed. He asked for this issued to be followed up.

Mr. Riepe continued stating that Ms. Kablack and Mr. Place purchased granite benches and need to be incorporated into the zone. Ms. Kruskal asked if they were memorial benches. Mr. Reipe said he did not know, but they should be located at DPW and installed at any time.

Ms. Kruskal said she was open to the idea of reconsidering the elements and would not like to see the area filled with clutter. Rather, she would like to see something that people can sit on and not granite with a back so people can sit back and enjoy the newspaper or the view. Mr. Riepe agreed. Patty Walsh of the Sudbury Garden Club stated the site needs more architecture elements. Mr. Davidson wants the site safe for crossing.

Ms. Kruskal had two thoughts: 1. The Common looks nice opened up with the use of low shrubs that would create an anchor. She would also create a nook, not blocking Town Hall. She said it would be nice to have shade, but it will block Town Hall so she picked out a few lower species. 2. The shrubs should be no higher than five to six feet, and there should be a mulched bed for benches to reduce the amount of mowing.

Mr. Riepe indicated the group can chose a species that won't block the Town Hall and the First Parish Church. He suggested Wisteria trees. Ms. Kruskal noted that even 15 feet would block Town Hall. Mr. Reipe said it has to be done in a way where you want to spend an hour or two. Mr. Riepe noted that a 40 foot or 60 foot tree would create an obstruction. Ms. Kruskal noted she thought people may want shade.

Ms. Kruskal said she would spend time developing the project. Mr. Riepe added the garden club will be doing the “heavy lifting.” Ms. Walsh said they currently spend 90% of the time pruning the shrubs, edging at Heritage Park, and noted that it is hard to find people to volunteer to do this. She suggested getting the Boy Scouts or seniors to help on the Day of Service.

Ms. Kruskal noted she would like to see some seasonal plantings, which Ms. Walsh supported. Ms. Kruskal stated something needs to anchor the Common. Mr. Riepe suggested a tree.

Mr. Riepe asked about the fixture Ms. Wash was presenting to the Committee. She noted the dimensions were 3’x3’ and 25 inches high. She indicated it is low, but would like to be able to see it when driving by. Ms. Walsh said the Garden Club was unsure of whether it should be placed on a foundation or not.

Mr. Riepe was concerned stating the fixture the Garden Club chose did not have a history of being at the Town Center. He thought a trough would be more fitting. Both Ms. Walsh and Ms. Kruskal disagreed and referred to the newly constructed lampposts. Ms. Walsh did not want to have a trough look as though it was taking over the landscape. She further noted the Garden Club’s position is to find a way to have a statement piece rather than have in-ground gardens, which would not be visible. She stated that the fixture they chose is antique and if the group decided to go with the trough, it more than likely would not be from Sudbury either. Ms. Walsh said the chosen fixture is the next best thing and historically speaks to the Town’s story.

Ms. Kruskal noted that there would not be pedestrians on the middle island and to just edge and mulch would be more aesthetically pleasing without a fixture. Mr. Riepe questioned the location of the plantings for the total design.

Ms. Walsh said if there are no flowers, there should still be a conversation piece with whatever type of fixture that is chosen.

Ms. Walsh showed photographs of the fixture chosen by the Garden Club. Mr. Riepe reiterated the idea of placing a trough there. Ms. Walsh indicated she did not know of a price and felt it would be too low for passers-by. Mr. Riepe said the trough could be raised. Ms. Kruskal, Ms. Walsh, and Mr. Davidson all agreed that would look contrived.

Ms. Walsh said she was trying to visualize without anything in the corner and thought it would not need anything but a planter; noting it would look clean, beautiful and serene.

Mr. Reipe requested to circle back to the benches. Ms. Kruskal noted the benches should be comfortable and the previously purchased granite benches could be put in Grinnell Park.

Ms. Walsh noted the Sudbury Foundation was waiting for an approval from the SCIAC to award a grant to the Garden Club to pay for the fixture. She added that she was not convinced of the height of the trough. Ms. Kruskal suggested going to New England Garden Ornaments on Union Avenue to look at the proposed fixture.

Ms. Donoghue suggested the Committee vote on having some sort of a fixture in the Town Center and visit at a later date the New England Garden Ornaments store on Union Avenue to view the selection and come to an agreement on what type of fixture would be appropriate.

Ms. Kruskal motioned to have a historically relevant garden element in the Town Center. Mr. Riepe second. Vote: All in favor.

Mr. Riepe discussed the forwarded email proposal from Lee Swanson, dated June 2, 2017. The proposal suggested utilizing an information kiosk in the center of the Common to serve as a community bulletin board. Mr. Riepe felt that the kiosk was not appropriate for the Town Center.

Mr. Nason discussed the walkways stating he still has to stake out and check the slopes. He noted that the construction would be too disruptive. Mr. Riepe asked how much will Mr. Nason deviate from the plan. Mr. Nason answered that there should be modifications to the square corners and can do trimming while they are at it. Mr. Riepe asked if it is a way that keeps people on the path and not the grass. Mr. Nason talked about reestablishing the area and the best way to do that is to stake out the area. The group agreed.

Mr. Riepe asked about the light poles and their power source. Mr. Nason replied from underground, which the power source was already there and runs off of Town Hall. Mr. Riepe indicated the Town's Electrician told him that the electric meters would be removed and moved to the Grange Hall. Mr. Riepe was wondering when. Mr. Nason indicated there was no date for the light installs. Mr. Riepe suggested having a meeting for the repositioning of the lighting.

Mr. Nason asked if the lights at First Parish were part of the install. Mr. Riepe said he believes there are two at that location. Mr. Nason noted the walkway that goes over to First Parish is not plowed. Mr. Riepe said that the Committee would have to re-educate people on where to walk, especially from going from the parking lot to where the two roads meet. Mr. Riepe noted that the crosswalks the previous winter were left with mounds of snow. Mr. Nason noted there were logistical changes last year and he is looking at new plowing programs and different staff for the upcoming winter. He further noted they are redoing every single route in town for plowing.

Ms. Kruskal discussed the parking lot behind Town Hall and noted the striping. She indicated the Cecil group gave a striping plan and should move forward with it in the future.

Mr. Riepe indicated the Town Hall Blue Ribbon Committee was moving forward with the Town Hall restoration project and noted that the Town Center will be implemented within the design plan. He said it should be done by January 2018.

Mr. Nason asked when to stake out. Ms. Kruskal answered soon. Mr. Nason wanted to discuss crosswalks noting a few design suggestions. He noted the design will be made of glass beads and the lines will have a reflective quality and will last up to 7-10 years more than just painting the pavement. He said he was not a fan of the blue sidewalks as they are very slippery and not required by the NUTCB. Mr. Riepe noted the Committee's suggestion a fine grain texture at a pedestrian scale with safety. He indicated that brick or imprinted brick had a historical look and feel for pedestrians and was the reason why such a design was originally chosen. Mr. Nason said that people with spinal injuries or those in wheel chairs do not like the textured crosswalks. He further stated he is open to other ideas.

Ms. Donoghue went over all other remaining funds. Mr. Nason discussed Chapter 90 funds and said he discussed a consulting firm to maximize what is remaining with the remaining roadway funds. He also discussed his pavement management plan, which was primarily funding with Chapter 90 funds as well.

Mr. Riepe noted out of the tasks remaining, walkways can come out. He discussed the gores once again. Ms. Donoghue and Ms. Kruskal noted at the previous meeting (see minutes), the gores were removed from the project list. Mr. Nason indicated gores are a heavy issue with plows during the winter. Mr. Riepe suggested looking at the installation of gores in Wayland and noted it makes an attractive intersection.

Mr. Nason said goers cannot fully be cleared by snow and can create an island, but he is willing to go talk to the people in Wayland and look at it.

Ms. Kruskal said if the crosswalks cost \$51,000 and they implement the gores, then the money would be all used up. Mr. Riepe said the Committee can get more money from the CPC.

Mr. Kruskal asked how to prioritize the projects. What is the goal? She further asked when the walkways would be put in. Mr. Nason indicated they could not be done before July 4 weekend.

The Committee agreed to meet on June 16, 2017 at 11:00am in the DPW conference room.

Ms. Kruskal moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Davidson second. Vote: All in favor.

Motioned to adjourn at 10:35 a. m.