

Route 3A Task Force

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

June 3, 2020 7:00 PM

Remote meeting via Zoom

In attendance:

3A Task Force members Judy Sneath, Deirdre Anderson, Bryce Blair, Alan Perrault, Paul Healey

Joined by engineers Wayne Keefner (DCI), Steve Boudreau (Vanasse), JR Frey (Town of Hingham), and Marion Pressley, landscape architect

Joined by stakeholders Harbor Development Committee, Trustees of the Bathing Beach, Loni Fournier (Senior Planner, Conservation), Keith Jermyn (Veterans' Services Officer), and others

Zoom host Heather Johnson (Town)

1. Chair Judy Sneath opened the meeting by advising that it is being held remotely pursuant to an order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.
2. Wayne Keefner, the project engineer, summarized design changes following State comments on the 25% design which was submitted in 2019.

Discussion focused on the layout at North Street intersection which has shifted south; this did not significantly change the radius of the roadway and continues to meet Mass DOT design criteria.

3. Wayne Keefner presented an overview of the Shared Use Path, showing how it would relate to the existing brick harbor walk, and transition through the North Street area and the veteran's memorial. The concept met with task force agreement and stakeholder support.
4. JR Frey led a discussion of roadway elevations and drainage along the length of the project. Although catch basins will surcharge during significant tidal and storm events, the design meets Mass DOT requirements. Wayne Keefner advised that tidal gates within the right of way will be repaired or replaced as part of this project.

5. Wayne Keefner presented an updated project schedule. Currently DCI is awaiting the state scheduling of the comment resolution meeting. Following that there will be a 25% design public hearing in Hingham.

While awaiting the next step with DOT, DCI will do additional survey work and geotechnical testing. The project continues to be ahead of schedule for the 2025 TIP, and even for the 2024 TIP – should that become a possibility.

6. Marion Pressley of Pressley Landscape Associates, contracted by DCI for this project, gave an overview of their work process. The task force and stakeholders then shared their ideas and priorities, including:
 - Sensitivity to trees, particularly in the grove; SUP should move around what's there
 - Concerns with damage to landscape from roadway rock salt
 - Protection of the vista for passersby; example - experience for motorists improved by removal of the Mobil gas station
 - Concern for preserving the sycamore trees by utility pole 53
 - Pleased that SUP going around Whitney Wharf, as it may bring more visitors to the veterans' monument
 - Conservation officer looking for plantings to mitigate impact of new brick harbor walk; possibilities at western end of the grove
 - Conservation officer advocate for native species, for plantings with habitat value and storm water absorption
 - Opportunity for public demonstration garden focused on pollinators
 - Concern for safety in area between Otis Hill and the grove; design an effective, nice-looking barrier
 - Possibility of trees or bushes along median strip between roundabout and Martin's Lane, with concern for sight-lines; neighbors interested and may contribute
7. Engineers will work with the task force to arrange for a face-masked, six-foot-distanced site visit for stakeholders to walk the area with landscape architects. Include historic, recreation departments, garden club, neighbors.

Engineers and task force will continue to contact abutters to detail particular impacts, and work towards the 25% design public hearing.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9PM.