



TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
DOWNTOWN BRUNSWICK AND OUTER
PLEASANT STREET CORRIDOR
MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
28 FEDERAL STREET, BRUNSWICK, ME 04011-1583

Margo Knight, Chair
Councilor – District 6

John Perreault, Vice Chair
Councilor – District 4

Newell Augur
Citizen at Large

Paul Dostie
Resident - Downtown

Elisabeth Doucett
Creative Economy/Non-profit

Jacqueline Ellis
Citizen at Large

Mike Lyne
BDA Member

Toby Tarpinian
Business Owner - Downtown

Katherine Wilson
Resident – Pleasant Street

David Flaherty
Business Owner – Pleasant Street

MEETING SUMMARY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012

1. **Introductions/Public Comment**
 - a. Chair Knight introduced new BDA member, Mike Lyne. He is replacing Stephanie Slocum who resigned as Executive Director of BDA.
 - b. Public comment provided during related agenda item discussion.
2. **Presentation of 6/25/12 Meeting Summary**
 - a. Summary accepted unanimously without revision.
3. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - a. **Visual Quality: Liz Doucett**
 - No meeting to report. Noted need for new subcommittee lead. Mike suggested as lead and accepted. He will also serve as the MPIC “liaison” to the BDA Design Committee. Margo requested subcommittee discuss downtown maintenance issues.
 - b. **Ped/Vehicular: John Perreault**
 - No meeting to report.
 - Noted successful public forum on Maine Street option, for more discussion later on agenda.
 - c. **Neighborhoods: Margo Knight**
 - No meeting to report
 - Noted the holding of outdoor film showings at Davis Park by the Northwest Brunswick Neighborhood Association. Idea for such an activity was suggested in the Downtown Master Plan.
 - d. **Finance/Marketing: Dave Flaherty**
 - No meeting/activity to report
4. **Master Plan Outreach Activities**
 - a. **July 30th Public Forum Recap:**
 - David noted roughly 75 attendees
 - John mentioned loss of parking with roundabouts
 - Toby said overlays on aerial photos were eye opening, differed than expected
 - John was taken off guard, hadn’t seen some of the photos before, committee has lots to discuss

- Kathy commented that many liked 2way Pleasant St., it is a process – won't happen overnight
- Craig Urquhart (Simpsons Point, Morning Glory Foods) was concerned with pedestrian safety when crossing at Post Office on a two-way Pleasant – carrying over problem from Maine St. Parking is lifeblood of Morning Glory – been on Maine St. 31 years, think creatively to maintain vitality in town.
- Tony Sachs (Bodwell St., Big Top Deli) believed Opportunity #4 was liked only as an alternative to #1, which was disliked because of back-in parking. Parking issue is huge: 88 spots between Mason & Pleasant and 24 will be lost in #4. Roundabout gets traffic moving through town and people don't stop and orient themselves. Also traffic backs up at new light near green bridge – don't feel roundabout will work.
- Claudia Knox said that the possibilities hold enormous promise. Impressed with level of participation by business owners. Also concerned with parking loss in Big Top/Morning Glory block. Can't have everything we want but we can improve. Hope to see well signed, well lit, well managed off-street parking when done. Fan of 2way Pleasant St. Roundabouts slow down travel making it more attractive to stop and shop, also help to reverse direction.
- Susan Tarpinian (Simpson Point, Morning Glory) noted that parking a big concern of hers – if we lose it somewhere we need to gain it somewhere else. One lane travel will make parking harder and downtown more congested. Found discussions a little bicycle oriented – must balance the needs of all users.
- John relayed a question received from citizens – why must we change Maine St? Why not have bike lanes on side streets, i.e. Federal and Union. We should look at all options and not just focus on two in particular.
- David noted that opportunities allow the committee to explore conceptually and then the discussion can feather out.
- Kathy stated that public input has given group more to think about. Parking needs to be a focus. Answer probably won't be any one of the options exactly, more of a combination of ideas.
- John said that not everything about the downtown needs to be changed, minor tweaks to the existing conditions should be considered.
- Toby added that the CSS Team has some pretty grandiose ideas and they are attempting to fix things that aren't necessarily broken. A priority of the committee should be parking.
- Anna stated that everything discussed tonight along with a copy of the survey is online on the MPIC page and also available in the Planning Office.
- John suggested adding a simple survey with yes/no questions in with the ballot this November (i.e. "Do you support a two-way Pleasant St.?")
- Margo will ask Fran about having a table with maps and the survey at the polls.
- Anna suggested an interactive survey - placing volunteers outside businesses on occasion to ask shoppers questions.

- b. **Discuss Draft Outline for Public Forum:**
- 5. **Staff Project Updates:**
 - a. **Maine Street Raised/Textured Crosswalks**
 - Susan Tarpinian felt that too much parking will be lost to raised crosswalks.
 - Anna noted that spaces lost on one side of the street may be gained on the other. She emphasized that some existing spots are unsafe because they back-out into crosswalks and those need to be addressed.
 - Tony Sachs stated that the busiest block (Big Top Deli) has no crosswalk in the current plan and people will have to cross side streets to get there. Anna to approach Town Engineer about possibility.
 - Claudia Knox said that there are numerous opportunities on Maine St. to correct curb cuts that are too wide and that may create new spaces.
 - Craig Urquhart stated that speed is a major issue on Maine St. so raised crosswalks are a great idea.
 - Kathy questioned whether there is a speed limit on Maine. She commented that it should be 15mph and most drive 30-35.
 - Mike wondered whether the Town has jurisdiction over speed on Maine – he believed it to be the State’s responsibility.
 - Margo will again ask to have star strips installed on Maine St. so that the speed of traffic can be collected in different locations.
 - In general, businesses discourage employees from parking on Maine St.
 - Raised crosswalks at Maine Street Station were designed to be more dramatic than the result.
 - b. **Bike/Ped Plan – Request for MDOT Technical Assistance**
 - c. **Safe Routes to School/Transportation Enhancements**
 - Application submittal: Anna Breinich**
 - Application was submitted for flashing pedestrian crosswalk signals. One will be installed across Mill Street at the swinging bridge/Cushing St. in the next month. Have requested \$100,000 for four more. MDOT will provide study to determine priority crosswalks. It will be two years until we learn whether we have the funds.
 - d. **Androscoggin Riverwalk Transportation Enhancements**
 - Application submittal**
 - e. **Other Projects**
- 6. **Other Business**
- 7. **Next Meeting To Dos/Agenda:** Next Public Forum on September 13, 2012. Next regular meeting of the Committee will be September 24, 2012.

Present: Margo Knight, Chair; John Perreault, Vice Chair; Toby Tarpinian; Mike Lyne; Elisabeth Doucett; Kathy Wilson; David Flaherty; Anna Breinich, Committee Staff