



ENGINEERING SUCCESS TOGETHER

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2013
To: John Livsey
From: Kien Ho BETA Project #: 4496
Subject: Lexington Town Center Meeting Notes
Location: Lexington DPW
Attendees: Chamber of Commerce – Mary Jo Bohart
Town of Lexington - Dave Pinsonneault (Public Works), Melisa Tintocalis (Economic Development)
BETA Group, Inc. - Kien Ho, Kelly Carr

Phases of the project were described by Kien Ho

General Comments:

Mary Jo Bohart – Lexington Chamber of Commerce

Currently visitors walk from Buckman Tavern to Clarke House but are more likely to ride from Buckman Tavern to Munroe Tavern.

Likes idea of connecting Battle Green to Mass Ave/Woburn Intersection to bring visitors through downtown.

Mary Jo wearing two hats:

1. Local business community.
2. "Greater good" people who are not local.

Many residents are civically involved.

She is also concerned about those who are overlooked.

Difference between tourists and visitors. Visitors live closer. Wants to encourage them to return often.

Visitors center open all year.

During Presley preliminary plans many businesses did not participate for various reasons, felt left out of the process. Possibly meet at a "Business Breakfast" (about 6 held each year) to get their input.

Waltham Street needs enhancements – Southern Gateway

Mass Ave at Worthen Rd. important to consider because an historic building is being restored into an Inn and restaurant with 22 +/- rooms. Owner is cycling enthusiast. Inn can encourage new amenities of strolling along Mass Ave and bring cyclists to downtown.

Cycling:

Cycling could become Lexington Identity (along with Heritage Site), currently existing Minuteman Bikeway, "Ride Studio Café", "Bikelet". Possible destination stop from bike touring. Bicycle accommodations important. Add bike lanes on Mass Ave.?

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Cycle shop and sport store encourages use at Waltham/Mass Ave. Encourage cyclists to stroll downtown. Would like Lexington to be destination for Bike Path users. As means of transportation/commuting also important.

Toole Design is currently working on Bikeway Wayfinding Study- Chris Bosley. Meeting in two weeks at Depot Sq. May 5th?

Busses:

Have itinerary/agenda in and out to see multiple sites in one day.

Busses parking along battle green block the experience.

Bus tours don't sign in, passenger vehicles do.

Good to find parking in other areas: At high School in the summer (Mass Ave/Worthen)? Carve area on Meriam St. by Visitor Center? Turning radius could be problem.

Mary Jo can give names and contacts of tour busses for Beta to call.

Tours come in off cruise ships in Boston.

Buss accommodations would help to encourage visitors to stay longer.

There may be multiple solutions (places for busses to park) depending on the diverse needs of tour busses.

Example: school, elderly, cruise ship.

Crosswalks/traffic:

Crosswalk at Library dangerous, numerous accidents.

Crosswalk skew at Minuteman difficult.

Crosswalk from Minuteman to Visitor is a major pedestrian way. Less accidents.

Battle green sign just added at Battle green side of crosswalk.

Eliminate left turn at minuteman possible option good to hear.

Visitors Center:

Many visitors have difficulty finding Visitors Center. Good to connect Visitors Center building to street.

Kiosk good idea.

Lawn is amenity and gets much use.

Activity happens at Visitors Center (VC) behind Buckman Tavern and in front of VS.

Every Friday in July and August Concert Series. Performers set up stage on walk in front of VC. 300-500 people.

Also Autumn Arts and Crafts Fair.

Good to improve open space in front of VC.

Stone dust Y shaped path can be problematic especially in rain. Public Works- Battle Green Masterplan possibility to use chip seal asphalt.

Seat wall discussed at VC good but may be too confining. Possibly use moveable café tables and chairs.

Town maintains.

Space at Belfry across street also "Gem" as open space.

Bank America alley also looked at.

Parking:

Lexington Center Committee Parking Management Group- sub committee looking at parking.

Worst time is between 11:00 and 2:00-lunch

Meter type- committee will take lead from streetscape design.

Lots can be shared for various uses: Restaurant use Civic building parking at night. Depot Square for recreation parking

Lot between Waltham and Clarke gets full quickly. Southern side disadvantaged – possibly use Arts and Crafts Society on Waltham St. (If member can park).
Melisa will send current study by sub-committee.

General:

Important Civic buildings: Cary Hall Performing Arts, Library, civic anchors. Downtown comparison to mall set up-anchors.

Declining retail due to mall competition; Wayside Commons, regional Mall. Downtown specialty retailers doing well.

Need for Bus Shelters but Historic District Commission will need to approve. MBTA stops at Post office, Depot, VC