

## Master Plan Implementation Committee

July 27, 2023

Members Present: Cheryl Tougias, Chair; Warren Lizio, Dick Burke, Roxanne Musto, Taber Keally, Elaine Benson, Regina Campbell-Malone, Josh Eckart-Lee Assistant Town Planner

Meeting called to order at 7:01. Next meeting date will be September 18<sup>th</sup> and October 16<sup>th</sup>. Members Musto and Member Campbell-Malone provided minor edits to the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Warren Lizio, seconded by Roxanne Musto. 6/0/1 in favor, abstention from Elaine Benson due to absence at meeting in question.

### Citizen's Speak

No citizens elected to speak at this time.

### Staff Update

Josh Eckart-Lee updated the committee on an upcoming MBTA Communities Public Forum, which will be held on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Regina Campbell-Malone joined at 7:07.

### Town Center Parking Analysis

Mr. Eckart-Lee provided a brief update on the results of BETA Engineering's study on a midblock crosswalk at Canton Avenue. The findings will be presented to the Traffic Commission at their next meeting, expected to be held on August 1. Chair Tougias noted that potentially changing the signalization at the Thatcher, Highland and Canton Avenue intersection, as suggested at by the traffic engineer for the memory care project currently under review by the Planning Board, may improve the pedestrian experience. Member Burke questioned whether the midblock crossing would be too close to the existing crossings and be hard for a driver to notice. Chair Tougias wondered whether the Traffic Commission would work with the new traffic engineering consultant to identify safety and traffic considerations at the intersections affected by the inclusion of a signalized pedestrian crosswalk. If not, Chair Tougias recommended engaging consultant support to identify those safety considerations. Member Lizio questioned whether sun glare would be a safety consideration that ought to be included. Chair Tougias asked whether potential curb cuts on Canton Avenue for the 40 Highland Street site would be a part of the considerations for the traffic consultant. Library Director Will Adamczyk was present to receive additional usage questions from members. Chair Tougias had requested a fee to develop a cost estimate for a development at the 40 Highland Street site, which Mr. Eckart-Lee asked Bohler to review. Bohler was unable to provide an estimate due to it being outside their skillset; however, they recommended A.M. Fogarty & Assoc. Inc., which had provided pre-construction estimates for the East Fire Station project, and W.T. Rich Company, which also does public sector cost estimation. Chair Tougias requested that the committee provide a do-not-exceed allocation for the solicitation of estimates from pre-construction engineering firms. It was agreed that Chair Tougias and Mr. Lee would reach out to those firms. Chair Tougias also discussed potential parking expansion at Town Center. Member Campbell-Malone also noted the importance of including the recent context of the School Building Committee's efforts and discussed the importance of clear and effective communication. Chair Tougias was interested in asking Bohler and BETA about studying potential additional parking at Town Hall. Member Benson

discussed having a broader conversation of desired uses at the 40 Highland Street site and understanding development preferences. Director Adamczyk noted that the Library Trustees are very interested in the continued success of this project and would help fund the project as needed.

### Overview of Traffic Mitigation Committee Report & Implementation

Select Board Chair Mike Zullas was present to discuss the findings of the Traffic Mitigation Committee, which he chaired and of which Member Burke was a member. He noted that there is much work that needs to be done. He noted that there are now two traffic safety officers at MPD and appropriations for a traffic engineer for the Town. They identified eight hot spots in town with both specific and general recommendations for improvements. Included in their recommendations was a change in the membership of the Traffic Commission, some of which have been incorporated and affected change. Recommendations included a parking benefit district in East Milton Square, which would allow for installation of parking meters. A Vision Zero plan was also recommended, which seeks to have zero traffic fatalities. Member Burke discussed the process of the report generation and the breakdown of responsibilities for the implementation of traffic mitigation recommendations. He noted a need for the Traffic Commission to be more proactive, rather than reactive. He noted confusion about which department or committee is the lead actor on traffic issues, and frustration with the Traffic Commission's lack of leadership. Mr. Zullas noted that the traffic modelling software is in limbo with regards to who owns and uses it, which is a key challenge and potentially one mitigated by the hiring of a traffic engineer. Member Burke stated that the Traffic Commission should meet on a regular basis and be the lead on this work, including using the Traffic Model. Now that a traffic engineering position is funded, there is a question as to whether that person would be the user of the Traffic Model. The previous Town Administrator made a case for this position to be the centrally responsible traffic mitigation implementer. Chair Tougias recommended a webpage around traffic, and there was a previous wiki map that the Traffic Mitigation Committee used which might be able to be reused. Chair Tougias wondered whether the promised safety benefits from the Manning Park deck project have been realized. Mr. Zullas mentioned that he had spoken to the DPW Director about the signalization at the deck, which is still being calibrated.

### Master Plan Key Subject Area Research

Members reviewed their research which had been assigned at the May meeting. Member Lizio had researched economic development and spoken with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the economic development priorities in town. Member Benson researched housing and noted that the Trustees of the Affordable Housing Trust would be good guests to bring in to discuss this issue. She also recommended including clarity on how we define Milton's character in the Master Plan, and reviewing and updating specific plan language that calls for protection of housing that preserves Milton's character. Chair Tougias also noted that the Town's Housing Production Plan should be reviewed. Roxanne Musto is set to research Town Facilities and Services. Regina will be researching Open Space Resources and noted a number of open space resources that she had done some preliminary research on. She discussed the Conservation Commission, Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and Parks and Recreation Department as important stakeholders. Taber Keally will research

historic and cultural resources and was recommended to reach out to the Community Preservation Committee, the Local Historic District Study Committee, and the Historical Commission. Dick Burke will research circulation.

#### Agenda Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Chair Tougias noted that housing ought to be discussed at the September MPIC meeting. The ongoing MBTA Communities efforts will be particularly relevant to that research. For the October meeting, Economic Development will be the central subject. Further meetings and topics will be scheduled at the September meeting. Further discussion was had on traffic and parking issues in Milton, particularly around the enforcement of parking regulations and expansion of metered parking.

Motion to adjourn made by Regina Campbell-Malone, seconded by Taber Keally. 7/0/0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:31.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Eckart-Lee

Assistant Town Planner