

Minutes of the MBTA Task Force Subcommittee on Communication and Outreach

February 26, 2024

February 26, 2024 10:00 a.m. Hybrid and In-Person, Room 7, Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandy Bodmer-Turner, Gar Morse, Chris Olney, Susan Philbrick

STAFF PRESENT: Tiffany Marletta, Communications Director, Marc Resnick, Town Planner

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

Mr. Olney led a discussion of the meeting of The Manchester Club on February 15th. Task Force members Olney, Smith, Hall, Pratt and Morse attended. The presentation was well-received, and club members were engaged and interested. Questions and concerns raised included, among other topics, eliminating the MBTA Station, telling the State “no,” specifics of the Law, the ½ mile circle, why are we not rezoning Proctor Street? Several Club members have approached Task Force members since the meeting and have urged the Task Force to do additional presentations.

Ms. Marletta suggested a question of the week addressing the State’s role in zoning and the Town’s role in zoning.

Mr. Resnick led a discussion of the upcoming joint forum with the Planning Board on March 2nd. Ms. Marletta is publicizing on social media and in the Cricket. She is checking on refreshments and has scheduled a “walk-through” on March 1 at 2 p.m.

Ms. Bodmer-Turner emphasized how important a discussion of “by-right” zoning is. Mr. Olney will speak with Ms. Melish about presenting “by-right.”

Mr. Resnick will prepare an introduction, and then Mr. Olney and Mr. Mastrogiacomo will give presentations. Each zoning district will be summarized as follows: Ms. Philbrick – A and a general overview of the entire town; Ms. Bodmer-Turner – D1 and D2; Ms. Creighton – E; Mr. Smith – General; Mr. Mastrogiacomo – LCD. Mr. Olney will contact the other members of the Planning Board to request volunteers for B and C.

Maps will include the ½ radius the zoning districts of the entire town. Each zoning district will have a separate table with a map for the breakout session following the initial presentation.

Handouts to include a map noting the zoning districts.

Ms. Marletta led a discussion of the next issue of the Quarterly Newsletter. It will arrive around April 1, so the MBTA Task Force article must be finalized by March 14. Timeline should be updated, and the progress of the Task Force should be highlighted.

Mr. Morse moved to approve the Proposed Minutes from February 2 and all others contained in the most recent email from Ms. Philbrick. Ms. Bodmer-Turner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Donna Furse of Blossom Lane asked about “as of right” in the body of the statute. She also asked if the Task Force had removed Gordon College from consideration

Sarah Pierce of Friend Street stated that four stories is too tall.

Next meeting: March 11, 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Ms. Bodmer-Turner moved to adjourn, and Mr. Morse seconded the motion which passed unanimously.