

PHASE II DOWNTOWN FOCUS GROUP  
MINUTES  
April 28, 2021

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This meeting of the Phase II Downtown Focus Group was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via remote participation via ZOOM video conferencing pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c. 30A, section 18, and the Governor's March 23, 2020 Order, as amended, imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place.

Present: Michael Moonan (BL Companies), Kyle Alfred (BL Companies), Keith Caruso, Laurie Connors, Rich Hamilton, Kristen Livoti, Conor McCormack, Mike Kennedy, Mary Lou Mulhane, Laura Wellington

Absent: Dave Delaney, Vinod Kalikiri and Bob Roy

Mike Moonan of BL Companies shared his screen showing the Focus Group updates to the preliminary site plan that were made in response to comments received at the March 31<sup>st</sup> Focus Group meeting and meetings with the Veterans Commission, Hometown Bank and Tom Perry (abutter to the walkway to the Upper Common).

Mr. Moonan explained various cost saving measures that they were considering- i.e. replacing stamped concrete pavers in municipal parking lot with resin crosswalks, removing porous pavers where they abut rain gardens, and decreasing the size of the pedestrian plaza and seating wall at the Public Library.

In response to a question from Laurie Connors, Mr. Moonan said that they decided to keep the catch basins in the municipal parking lot.

Ms. Connors asked what the Group thought about replacing vertical granite curb with vertical concrete curb. Kyle Alfred confirmed that it would be a tremendous cost savings. Keith Caruso responded that for maintenance and longevity of the asset reasons, he prefers vertical granite curb.

Marylou Mulhane asked about installing signage at the Harris Place entrance from Elm Street prohibiting truck traffic. Trucks would have to access the parking lot from Grove Street only. This would alleviate issues that trucks have navigating the bumpout in front of Round 9 Fitness.

Mr. Caruso asked about adding a loading zone area in the municipal parking lot for trucks making deliveries to abutting businesses. Mr. Moonan responded that they will look into that.

Mike Kennedy asked about whether the ramp to the barber shop is still included in the design. Ms. Connors responded that it is but she is not sure about whether we will be able to get grant funding for it.

Laurie Connors asked and Mike Moonan confirmed that the updated designs and cost estimates would be ready by Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. She asked that they provide information about the decrease in impervious surface and resumes of all BL Companies staff that have worked on the design.

Ms. Connors alerted the group that she submitted the Complete Streets Construction Grant application earlier that day in the amount of \$225,500. She is working on the MVP Action Grant application and will need support letters by Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The following grant applications will be submitted if the municipal appropriation is made at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting:

- MVP Grant – Application due May 7, 2021
- Shared Streets & Spaces Grant – Application due in May 2021
- MassWorks/Housing Choice Grants – Application due June 1, 2021
- Section 319 Non-point Source Pollution Grant – Application due June 30, 2021

The next meeting of the Focus Group will take place via ZOOM at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.