

Minutes of the MBTA Task Force Subcommittee on Communications and Outreach

January 11, 2024

January 11, 2024 10:00 a.m. Hybrid and In-Person, Room 5

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

STAFF PRESENT: Tiffany Marletta, Communications Director; Gail Hunter, MBTA Task Force Administrator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

Discussion of Density Walk held on January 6, 2024.

- Excellent turnout
- Good questions from residents
- Plan to prepare a handout for website to allow residents to take a self-guided tour
- Ms. Bodmer-Turner agreed to write up the introduction she gave
- Add 4-6 Church Street to handout
- Correct any errors on handout
- Recap in Cricket

Ms. Marletta suggested a walk of each “option” when Task Force identifies final options for overlays

All agreed to schedule another walk in the Spring.

Discussion of Pine Street property on Density Walk

- Research architect
- Character of property

Mr. Olney summarized the joint meeting between Task Force and DIP on January 8, 2024

- DIP will touch base with their stakeholders: business operators, property owners, residents in downtown
- DIP will report to Task Force
- Roundtable with stakeholders: 1 day, 1 evening
- Ms. Dolan will contact Ms. Marletta for contact information
- “Worst case scenario” is subjective and interpretive
- Monitoring development after zoning change important
- 1/18 forum cancelled until DIP feedback

Discussion of Community Forum on Zoning Basics

- Existing zoning in each district
- Mr. Olney and Mr. Mastrogiacomo to select date

Mr. Olney led discussion regarding engaging Town boards and committees dealing with environmental and conservation issues: ConCom, Open Space etc.

Mr. Morse suggested outreach from the Task Force to the above groups.

Ms. Bodmer-Turner reiterated that issues of flooding and preservation are concerns expressed by residents.

The Manchester Club has invited representatives from the Task Force to speak at March 21 meeting.

Discussion of presence in the Cricket:

- Ms. Marletta will speak to Ms. Brown
- Ms. Bodmer-Turner suggested an independent piece – an opinion letter, column, question of the week
- Use FAQs and questions asked by residents at outreach events
- Discuss the green signs
- Common questions and concerns

Public Comment:

Ms. Pierce stated that it is hard for residents to evaluate without a plan and thanked the committee for acknowledging residents' questions and concerns. She asked if Tappan Street was part of any of the overlay districts currently under study. No.

The next meeting will be held on January 25, 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Olney moved adjourn, and Ms. Bodmer-Turner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.