

Minutes of MBTA TF Design Guidelines Subcommittee

January 16, 2024

6:00 PM

Present: Richard Smith, Gary Gilbert, John Harden, Chuck Wisner, Paul Stemple

Other Participants: MBTA Task Force Members, Sarah Mellish and Chris Olney and Town Planner, Marc Resnick

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Each participant introduced themselves

Mr. Smith presented the mission of the Subcommittee and specific tasks to be accomplished.

There was a discussion about whether the Subcommittee should include those who were not members of the MBTA Task Force. The non-members agreed that formal membership was not important for their participation, and they would prefer to serve as informal advisors.

The Group agreed on 4 initial tasks to be completed within 2 weeks if possible.

1. Character statement (Gilbert, Wisner and Olney). A general description of what makes Manchester unique and attractive.
2. A survey of buildings and features that contribute to the Town's character (Harden, Smith, ?)
3. A survey of design guidelines published by other municipalities (Smith, Stemple, ?)
4. A list of design features that might be included in a set of guidelines.

There was a discussion about mandatory controls vs optional guidelines. The issue was unresolved, though there was consensus that some combination would be a likely outcome.

There was a brief discussion about whether future meetings would be on Zoom. The group decided that a Zoom format was not conducive. Meetings would be posted and public welcomed. The next meeting date was set for January 30. The meeting adjourned.