

February 22, 2018

**Chester Main Street – Phase 3
Meeting Notes Public Information Meeting
Chester Meeting House**

1. Introduction by Steve Tiezzi
2. Design Presentation by Brian Kent, Kent + Frost
3. Engineering Presentation by Kati Mercier, Nathan L Jacobson & Assocs.

Public Comments

M. Sanders:

Review crosswalk as extension of trolley tracks. – Kati and Brian discussed that this was considered but ultimately not required or desired.

S. Holmes:

Review possibility of doing underground utilities and installing conduits for future use. We discussed that there have been several reviews of this and although we would all like this, it is a matter of costs and the cost would be in the millions. The individual property owners would also have additional costs as a result. Charging stations in the Water Street, Laurel Hill Cemetery, and/or Maple Street Parking Lots were discussed.

Claudia van Ness:

Liked sidewalk in front of 1 Maple Street. Wanted native street trees – Brian indicated that native trees cannot survive the harsh conditions as street trees due to lack of water in the soil and salts, etc. Claudia was the first to ask that the project be continued with a sidewalk to the Maple Street Lot.

M. Borton:

Wanted sidewalk on Maple Street to extend to Maple street lot as part of this phase. We discussed that in order to do so we would lose 4 add'l parking spots and the distance was much further than he considered. He withdrew request. He also asked about cutting into 2 phases for budgeting.

Cary Hull:

Sorry, I didn't write anything. She just asked if the project would extend to meet the end of MS 1 and the cemetery parking lot.

J. Davies & V. Lloyd:

Letter read into the record

L. Nielson:

He read his letter. We addressed some of the issues and others would be reviewed. Wanted to know what "redoing municipal improvements" meant. Wanted to know when decision was made to redo Main Street. Talked about water across his driveway. Wanted to know what the landscape improvements would be above the "Chester Wall". Had concerns about the location of the electrical control box. Didn't like the proposed kiosk, wants people to walk into businesses to ask questions, if necessary put back on the bridge. Had questions about removable bollards. Had questions about Chester Wall stairs – number of steps, shoveling in winter. Suggested marking out proposed layout so people could see. Talked about puddle at cross walk on CTDOT bridge project.

D. Archer:

What is construction schedule and how would it impact the shops. We indicated that as the project moves forward we would start to review construction sequencing to determine options for construction and how stores would be accessible. He also asked about signage and whether there would be loading zones (special interest since he is moving into Ceramica space).

S. Wright:

Asked to confirm motorcycle parking spaces were sized properly. Brian indicated that after the committee expressed concern last time the size of the spaces were increased. She later thanked the Committee for their hard work and dedication.

H. Krempel:

Concerned about plaza area re-design and reducing the delivery truck pull-off area. We will continue to keep this in mind. This also brought up concerns with why the parking had to change in this area and Brian explained that the changes were to create code compliant parking spaces with room in front of the cars to make the area safer. The area also provides a code compliant h/c space. Brian noted there are many additional reasons to improve this area including feedback from surveys, etc. requesting a better central gathering and event space.

V. Carmany:

Wanted the curbing to have chamfered/chiseled edge so they're not so sharp and perfect. Liked the cobblestone strips but they should be smoother, possibly honed. She asked the question about the language of being ADA compliant when the stores did not have ramps. Katie explained that town's responsibility was for the public right of way. She also had an issue with the "plaza", but thanked Katie for explaining the grading issues that would be supported by this feature.

Vick Hoehnebart:

Doesn't want anything to change. Misses the old gas lanterns. Old is charming, new can never be charming. It was clarified by a longtime resident that the lanterns have always been electric. Made comment that wayfinding signs must be easy to read and said we don't need more signage or lights. "Can't design charm, we already have it".

Bill. Austin:

Asked for distinction between 4" curb and 4" reveal. Want to delete all curbing. Wants all roads pitched to the center so drainage occurs there. Wants oil separator. Specific complaint about pear tree being inappropriate for project.

Pat Holloway: (reported by Lauren): Asked whether the h/c parking space near the flagpole could double as a loading zone for certain hours of the day. Answer was that h/c dedication was exclusive by law and could not have mixed usage.

Some other comments expressed to G. Jacobson after the meeting:

James Grabowski – water hydrant at flag pole is not useable. Cannot connect to side fittings. We discussed relocating either in new sidewalk area by P. Robinsons or by 1 Main Street.

Mike Sanders – discussed including sidewalk up Maple Street as a mitigating factor to accommodate pedestrian access from parking area to downtown shops during construction when parking will be difficult to accommodate. G. Jacobson advised Mike that this was a good suggestion and would discuss further with the committee.