

Kelley's Corner Steering Committee

Meeting with Landscape Architects

7 September 2017

Members of the Kelley's Corner Steering Committee (KCSC) met with two landscape architects from GPI as well as other members of the community to discuss possible approaches to infrastructure improvements to Main Street (Route 27) in front of Hosmer House. The meeting took place on 7 September 2017 in Room 9 at the Acton Town Hall.

Attendees

KCSC	Andrew Brockway, Larry Kenah, Peter Darlow
GPI	Lindsey Barbee, GPI Project Manager Ron Headrick, Senior Project Manager
Board of Selectmen	Joan Gardner, Katie Green, Peter Berry
Design Review Board (DRB)	David Honn, Holly Ben-Joseph
Acton Historical Society	Amber Klauer, Brewster Conant, Doug Herrick
Town of Acton	Kristen Guichard, Robert Hummel
Other	Jim Snyder-Grant

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 am.

Andy Brockway provided initial context by summarizing the previous week's on-site meeting at Hosmer House and the questions that we asked GPI to answer. At one level, the meeting consisted of GPI's proposals and reaction to those proposals. At a different level, the meeting provided members of the Acton Historical Society (AHS) to voice their concerns about how the infrastructure improvements would affect Hosmer House.

Amber Klauer, Brewster Conant, and Doug Herrick are a subcommittee of the Acton Historical Society dealing with the impact of the Kelley's Corner Improvement Project on Hosmer House.

Guiding Principles

- Highlight the house
- Enhance the building

The house has its own presence. We do not want the building to get lost.

Meeting Summary

Most of the meeting focused on three drawings of changes to the plans for Main Street in front of Hosmer House. The drawings generated conversations that went beyond the details depicted in the three pictures.

Three Concepts

Each of the drawings was called Hosmer House Preliminary Concept. They were labeled 1, 2, and 3.

In the comments that follow, direction like left and right refer to an observer looking at Hosmer House from the front. Thus, “left” is closer to Massachusetts Avenue and “right” is closer to Route 2.

Items in Common

The buffer between the roadway and the sidewalk has been removed.

The median has been shortened to allow a left hand turn from Route 27 northbound into the Hosmer House driveway on the RHS of the building.

There are two trees in front of Hosmer House today. In all three concepts, the tree on the left remains. Note that when actual construction begins, the tree may not survive.

Differences

Andy Brockway used the words “formal” and “organic” to distinguish Concepts 2 and 3 respectively.

Concept 1

- Reduce the size of the yard
- Move the stone wall tight against the new proposed brick sidewalk
- Lose one of the two existing, mature trees

Concept 2

- Realign wall with the house itself
- Move entrance to front of HH

Concept 3

- Create open areas (nodes)

Rejected Suggestions

- Remove median from middle of the road and put landscaping on both sides of the roadway instead
- Move center of the road further from Hosmer House and closer to stores

Upcoming Meetings

Some of these meetings have already take place.

Peter Berry suggested that AHS should meet with DRB. By the end of this meeting, that suggested meeting had been scheduled for 20 September.

The Board of Selectmen will discuss Hosmer House on either 11 September or 25 September. (The BoS is already planning to discuss the KC infrastructure work on 11 September.)

There will be a public hearing dealing with the entire improvement project after the 25% plan is complete. This meeting will likely take place in early 2018.

Other Items of Interest

Lindsey Barbee said that the 25% plan should be completed “late fall”, in October or November.

Hosmer House sits on ledge. The AHS folks recommended that the ledge investigation should be completed sooner rather than later.

Would it be possible to move the utility poles earlier?

General Sentiment

The three members of AHS were supportive of the efforts to make changes to the plans to accommodate Hosmer House.

- “We support the Kelley’s Corner initiative.”
- “... very positive ...”
- “We appreciate ...”

Holly Ben-Joseph felt that last week’s meeting (on site at Hosmer House) was an improvement and this week’s meeting saw even more improvement.

Conclusion

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 am.

These notes were recorded by Lawrence J Kenah.