

53 Regional Drive
Concord, NH 03313



Tel: (603) 225-2978
Fax: (603)225-0095

McFARLAND JOHNSON

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MEETING NOTES

PROJECT: CLAREMONT, NH – PLEASANT STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT
(MJ Project No: 18456.00) **DATE OF MEETING:** January 30, 2019

LOCATION: Council Chambers, City Hall, Claremont, NH **TIME:** 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Claremont Savings Bank, Claremont, NH **TIME:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

SUBJECT: Public Listening Session

ATTENDED BY:

CITY of CLAREMONT: N. Merrill Planning & Economic Development, Director
 T. Krebs Planning & Economic Development Project Manger
 R. Vinduska Business Development Specialist
 V. St. Pierre Department of Public Works, Director
 S. Osgood City Planner

MJ: B. Colburn
 S. Ozana

CRJA: J. Law

Residents: See attached sign in sheet

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Two meetings were held to better accommodate the schedules of the attending public. B. Colburn began each meeting by giving an overview of the project. The project area includes Pleasant Street from Opera House Square to Glidden Street, the area between Pleasant Street and Franklin Street, and the area between Pleasant Street and Broad Street. The goal of the project is to revitalize Claremont's downtown by created a more accessible and inviting street. This will include a complete streets approach to design, accessible parking, and updated utilities. This project is currently in the preliminary stage of design.

The role of the public at this meeting is to come up with ideas and concerns in this area. The design team will then take these ideas and concerns and develop conceptual alternatives. The alternatives will then be presented to the working group for comment, then refined before being presented to the public. The concepts will be presented to the residents at a public alternatives workshop. Here the public will get to comment on the designs. The design team will then take the information gained from the public feed back and refine the alternatives. Once refined the alternatives will be presented to the working group one last time and a preferred alternative will be chosen. The preferred alternative will then be presented to the public.

PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION CONSULTANTS

An Employee-Owned Company

DISCUSSION OF CHALLENGES:

B. Colburn asked the attendees what they believed were the most significant challenges in the area. They came up with the following:

Comments for 12:00 PM Session

- Need accessible sheltered bus stops
- Need to change the City's feel, Complete streets
- Shift from vehicle centric to more of a bicycle-pedestrian centric
- Too much truck traffic
- Not enough residential parking
- Better ADA access and more walkable
- Not enough lighting
- Tree roots in sewer lines
- Underutilized private parking
- Update utilities using best available materials
- Snow removal and sidewalk treatment

Comments for 6:00 PM Session

- Need to connect to the available parking (more than just signage)
- There is no identity to the street
- The street is not visibly interesting
- Too many historic restraints (makes it costly for business and building owners to make upgrades)
- Sidewalks are too narrow
- The street is too noisy
- More up keep and maintenance
- Not enough residential parking
- Building up keep and maintenance
- Snow removal
-

DISCUSSION OF OPPORTUNITIES:

B. Colburn asked the attendees for what they believed were the opportunities for the project. They came up with the following:

Comments for 12:00 PM Session

- Complete Streets
- Make the street one-way with angle parking on one side
- Build a parking structure
- Close off this section of Pleasant Street to traffic like Church Street in Burlington, VT
- Close off alley to traffic
- Move truck route out of the Square
- Make the street more narrow
- Wider sidewalks
- Make Pleasant Street a hub of activities that can be festival centric like White River Junction
- Add lighting from parking areas to street
- Consolidate parking between Franklin Street and Pleasant Street
- Utilize "Green" stormwater infrastructure

- Create inviting archways and green walkways in the alleys
- Allow access to the Main Street parking garage for residential parking
- Get niche businesses and restaurants to move downtown
- Close of Pleasant Street for special events and festivals
- Create easy access to and from off street parking
- Create designated areas for people to take pictures of the downtown's architecture
- Change some of the City's parking regulations
- Try to get some form of Higher Education to move back to Claremont
- Purchase private parking to build parking structure that includes green space
- Help small business that move into the area thrive
- Permeable surface treatments for stormwater
- Make Claremont a place people want to come to from out of town
- Include P.A. system for public events
- Utilize the roof space
- Incorporate school projects like rooftop gardens
- Add electric vehicle charging
- No Trucks
- Update the condition of the storefronts
- Include connection to the river

Comments for 6:00 PM Session

- Green Space
- Convert the street to one-way traffic
- Create a closed street plaza like Church Street in Burlington, VT
- Create a walking mall
- Add murals to building sides
- Add trees, bushes, benches, flowers, and clocks
- Have special events – arts and crafts expos
- Create a feel similar to Main Street USA in Disney World
- Build a new parking structure for residential and commercial parking
- New truck route to get trucks out of the City's center
- Create a welcoming feeling
- Have the design tie into the bullpen area of the Square
- Energize
- Create zoning that promotes small shops
- Public art displays (hip)
- Attract people from other communities (make Claremont a destination)
- Build community image and pride
- Connect downtown to Washington Street
- A design similar to Ithaca
- Outdoor seating
- Wider sidewalks
- Communal areas
- One-way street with diagonal parking on one side
- Theatre in the bullpen
- Brick inlays in the crosswalks
- Depressed median
- Senior friendly
- Separate vehicles and pedestrians
- Alleys too dark – paint white and add lighting
- Archway, lighting, and signage in alleys to get people to and from parking

- Light colored surface treatments
- Bicycle parking
- Make friendly for dog walking
- Give similar feel of Brattleboro, VT and Portsmouth, NH
- Create shade and rain covers to give places to rest
- Create art locations
- Pedestrian only may not work well in winter months
- Electric vehicle charging
- Great lighting options

Submitted by:

Scott Ozana
McFarland Johnson, Inc.

cc: Attendees