



Town of Bridgewater
Downtown Revitalization Ad Hoc Committee

February 22, 2024

9:00 AM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Conference Room 201A

and

via video: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87889593732>

MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) January 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Items for Discussion**
 - a) Discussion of Downtown Revitalization
 - b) Discussion of Route 18 Corridor Transportation Study Resolution
- E. Adjournment of Meeting**



Town of Bridgewater
Downtown Revitalization Ad Hoc Committee

January 25, 2024
9:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Perry called the meeting to order at 9:26am. The meeting took place in Conference Room 201A and via Zoom.

Councilors Present: Councilor Perry and Councilor Linde.

Also in attendance was CED Director Robert Rulli and Town Manager Michael Dutton.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Discussion of Downtown Revitalization

CED Director Rulli gave a brief update on vision for reality. Noted all inter-related; an e-newsletter is sent every two week and can see who opens the e-newsletter. MBTA platform is ongoing; DOC wastewater to prison is ongoing and need zoning in place. Housing is needed for young professionals and over 55. Micro-transit is the new thing. Historic preservation is a huge part; pld Town Hall valuable asset. Form based code does not apply to Central Square – Planning Board still has control. Campus Plaza biggest piece – will be done in phases.

Councilor Perry asked what the 2025 goals were.

Mr. Rulli noted that Broad Street and behind Bridgewater trophy would begin in 2025, traffic study would be funded, wastewater and MBTA will be discussed. Will do more with BSU. Perkins is 90% approved, could be Fall before anything happens.

Mr. Rulli also noted that affordable housing has a bd name, many do not understand. Bridgewater is a walkable community. Want local owned businesses, not big box. More housing will bring more retail and restaurants.

Councilor Perry noted that a resolution for traffic pattern will be taken up at the next meeting..

ADJOURNMENT O FMEETING

Councilor Linde made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results are recorded as follows: Linde – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Absent. Motion passes 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13a.m.

WHEREAS, Old Colony Planning Council has published its final draft of the Route 18 Corridor Transportation Planning Study which makes recommendations regarding the Central Square traffic pattern and changes to signalization, and;

WHEREAS, There are long delays at the Bedford Street (Route 18/28) northbound stop approach intersection entering Central Square, and this intersection is considered failed during the morning peak hour and the afternoon peak hour, and;

WHEREAS, Vehicle queues from northbound traffic at the Broad Street (Route 18)/Main Street (Route 28)/Summer Street (Route 104) intersection queue into Central Square creating delays for traffic trying to enter the oval on the Bedford Street northbound stop approach and the South Street stop approach, and;

WHEREAS, The South Street intersection at Central Square is considered failed during the morning and afternoon peak hour, and;

WHEREAS, The recommendation for improving peak hour traffic flow at the south end of the oval, including the Bedford Street (Route 18) northbound approach and the South Street (Route 104) approach is to create a single point signalized intersection, and;

WHEREAS, As part of the Town of Bridgewater's plan to redesign and revitalize Central Square, (called "Revitalizing the Heart of Bridgewater: Vision to Reality"), the town has developed a plan to reconfigure Central Square, and;

WHEREAS, This concept plan calls for reconfiguring the angled parking in the center from angled to parallel parking. The plan has one travel lane on each side of the oval (one on the northbound side and one on the southbound side).

WHEREAS, The plan would widen sidewalks for outdoor restaurant seating and a bicycle lane would be added on both sides of the oval.

WHEREAS, The plan would install Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons at crosswalks in Central Square to improve pedestrian visibility and safety for crossing Central Square.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater:

That the Town Council endorses this concept plan and is prepared to seek a solution to the ease traffic congestion, drastically improve pedestrian safety and access, and improve bicycle and pedestrian routes throughout the Central Square area, and;

That the Town Council requests the Town Manager to present an appropriation to fund preliminary engineering services to begin the Central Square Improvement Program, and;

That the Town Council requests the Town Manager to present a comprehensive plan and timeline to the Town Council for approval after the preliminary engineering has been completed.