

Town of Lexington
Lexington Center Committee

Minutes for the meeting of June 17, 2020.

The meeting was held pursuant to Gov. Baker's executive order of March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of G.L. c. 30A, section 20.

Center Committee Members: Katherine Huang, Frederic Johnson, Howard Levin, Pamela Lyons, Innessa Manning, Jerold Michelson (Chair), Pamela Shadley, Peter Siy

Liaisons: Jill Hai, Select Board, Frank Smith, Capital Expenditures Committee, Casey Hagerty, Economic Development Department, David Pinsonneault, Department of Public Works, Sandra Shaw, Council on Aging,

Guests: Susan Barrett, Transportation Manager, Kathy Fields, Crafty Yankee, Kevin Falcone, Chair, Bike Committee, Sheila Page, Assistant Planner

We started out with the DPW update from Dave Pinsonneault: "it's been hectic and crazy downtown." All downtown striping and other maintenance was done as is usual to prepare for Patriots Day, even though those festivities did not take place. Sunday trash pickup in the Center begins on Sunday June 28. The Parklett is going in this Saturday, June 20. DPW is working with the Transportation Safety Group to create additional outdoor spaces in the Center to help the restaurants. The Center Streetscape Project is scheduled to begin after Patriot's Day, 2021.

Sandhya Iyer, the new Economic Development Director, introduced herself and discussed her background which includes economic development for the life sciences sector on the state level. Casey Hagerty discussed various EDD strategies in response to the pandemic including eliminating fees and restrictions on parking, creating a dine and shop webpage on the Town website and allowing sandwich signs in the Center.

Ms. Iyer outlined reopening plans for the Center. (See Presentation to the Select Board dated June 10, 2020

https://mail.rcn.com/service/home/~/Reopening%20Plan%20for%20Select%20Board.pdf?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=960700&part=2.) The EDD is especially trying to increase capacity for restaurants via additional outdoor seating. Howard Levin urged the EDD and Center Committee to think about ways to help other Center businesses including gyms.

Sheila Page, Assistant **Planning Director**, presented a plan to create a 20 mph safety speed zone in the Center. (See Transportation Safety Group Presentation to the Select Board dated **June 15, 2015**. **The presentation is posted in the Select Board's packet: <https://lexington.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/>**). All members were supportive of this idea. Concerns and suggestions were raised over enforcement, lack of a traffic light at the Mass Ave/Woburn Street intersection (although this issue might reanimate in the future) and whether the zone could extend all the way to the Munroe School Building.

The Center Committee voted 8 to 0 (by roll call vote) to support a 20 mph speed limit in the Center (as shown in the TSG presentation) and to extend this zone eastward to the Muzzey Condominiums crosswalk.

The Depot Parking Lot is currently free and unmanned. There was some light discussion as to when to start up again with fees and enforcement.

The Center Committee voted 8 to 0 (by roll call vote) to recommend to the Select Board that parking remain free for the time being.

Pamela Shadley suggested that a specific termination date, such as Labor Day, be chosen.

The new bakery on Edison Way (replacing a Dunkin Donuts) is almost ready to open. LaDolda has opened.

The Visitors Center is looking to open on July 13th with an outdoor information function and Battle Green tours. The Liberty Ride is on indefinite hold. Susan Barrett indicated that Lexpress will be back. Someday. Town Meeting voted to appropriate \$177, 000 to buy the land needed for the bike node from the Lexington Historical Society.