

Town of Lexington
Lexington Center Committee

Draft Minutes for the meeting of Friday, August 7, 2020, 9:08 am.

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

Center Committee members: Michael Boudett, Frederic Johnson, Howard Levin, Pamela Lyons, Innessa Manning, Jerold Michelson, chair, Pamela Shadley

Liaisons: Jill Hai, Select Board, Frank Smith, Capital Expenditures Committee, Casey Hagerty, Economic Development Office, Sandra Shaw, Council on Aging, Sandhya Iyer, Economic Development Director

Jerry Michelson gave the Department of Public Works update: there's an assortment of maintenance items that needed to be addressed in the Center. However, Jill Hai noted that Hurricane Isaias had created a lot of tree work so DPW is busy catching up with that work first.

Vacancies in the Center include the Bulpan, Goodfeet and Hair Cuttery locations. Revolve went out recently. The Chamber of Commerce had an exit interview with Revolve and Casey will inquire as to that. Revolve has a number of locations in other Towns. Convisor, which handles commercial real estate is going into the Compass space. Jerry will be in touch with the owner and invite him to meet with the Center Committee. Vinebrook Tavern was bought by the owners of Omars. They are looking into having virtual gaming and snacks on the first floor and housing on the second floor.

The Select Board endorsed the 20 mph speed zone in the Center. This will go into effect after "some government activity."

Sandhya summarized the EDO plans for implementing the Shared Streets grant. Jersey barriers and signs will go up creating more space for outdoor dining. EDO has coordinated the DPW regarding appropriate locations on Mass. Ave. Is any of this space available for retail? Via Lago would prefer to keep the parking spaces as they are using tables on the sidewalk. However, Royal India Bistro and Abbott's would like more outdoor seating. Howard inquired as to the benefits of the time and effort devoted to

this given that we are approaching fall. Innessa let us know about high school students who are interested in displaying or creating art on the barriers.

Pam Shadley pointed out that the parklet is not much used this summer , perhaps due to excessive number of chairs present where there are only two tables(due to removal of tables for social distancing.) Jerry noted that Grain Mill Alley gets more use when there are fewer chairs. Casey noted that additional tables and chairs at the Visitors Center were getting a lot of use. Fred asked if Dabin is seeking additional outdoor space for seating. Sandhya is rolling out this program in phases and will look into demand at Muzzey Street and East Lexington. Dave Pinsonnealt (DPW) had some concerns in East Lexington (not our purview anyway) about placing Town equipment on private property.

We digressed a bit into an overview into businesses using outdoor areas in other parts of town. Sandhya noted that the goal is to provide space quickly on an equitable basis and use the current permitting structure. Given its maintenance needs Emory Park is not a suitable location. Hastings Park (not under our jurisdiction) and Fletcher Park (yes, ours) are permitted through the Town Manager's Office. Jill asked Casey to draft a request to the TM for use of these locations. There is some concern that the TM's office does not now have the administrative capability to handle this.

Howard asked us to consider having Mass Ave go down to two lanes, just one in each direction, and allow all Center businesses to use the opened up space.

Jerry alerted us to the Special Town Meeting beginning in October where the Financial Services article (brought by Charles Hornig) would be brought forward. Mike said that he and Howard had discussed this with Charles who accepted some of their suggestions and urged us to follow and support this article.

The Center Committee voted seven to zero by roll call vote to approve the minutes of the March and June, 2020 meetings.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 3, 2020 at 9 am.

Sandra Shaw mentioned the COA's request for a free two hour Centerparking sticker for seniors. (This issue belongs to the Parking Management Group.)

There will not be a Center Halloween event this year. It is hoped that Discovery Day will be back next years.

