

January 18, 2023
High Street Improvement Project Committee
MEETING NOTES

Via Zoom:

Kendall Johnston - Sawyer, Bruce Martin, Chris Robinson, Cheryl Grace, Heather Hyde, Sara Porter, Lisa Mills

Regrets: John Divinski, Jenny Amy

Meeting commenced at 6:12pm

1. Review December 1st meeting minutes

RE: Including Neighbours in street canvas for garnering project approval

Bruce indicated that this should happen after the BIA Membership has been brought on-board

Cheryl posed the suggestion that we consult with the Town's Engineering Department to let them in on the concepts to see if they have any suggestions or see any glaring impossibilities

Bruce suggested that we raise that possibility once we have met with JMA for a follow up meeting next week

Ask JMA to estimate any additional costs to make any modifications to the existing plan and for the final presentation to Town Council in June

Heather feels we should be very clear with what our steps are and what the scope of our job to garner support should be:

1. Be very clear that this is a conceptual plan - nothing in writing or drawn out are to be taken as final designs, rather we are simply asking for support to refresh High Street

2. We are looking for support for High Street Beautification. Sara indicated that a useful point of view to offer is that the Town will have to be making infrastructure improvements to High Street and that it makes sense to include any improvements the BIA may wish to include at the same time.

3. It's also very important to make clear that there will be many opportunities for public consultation along the implementation process: May 20th, at Council once budget has been established by Town, in the design phase.

2. Talking Points

for the Committee and Board to use for canvassing and any other discussions that may arise socially or at work

Chris will revise the existing talking points to a more concise "elevator pitch"

Chris will create email package to be distributed to entire Membership

Lisa will make up 20 or 30 copies of the pitch to be left with businesses along with an invitation for a follow up meeting to discuss

3. From Cheryl: Town has recommended a budget expense of \$60,000 for parking strategies for both Southampton and Port Elgin

4. CRITICAL PATH

BIA Membership Support via personal canvassing

Bruce has done the block East of Albert and received support from those he spoke with And a question from the new Home Hardware owners commenting that a boulevard (as indicated in the present concept drawings), would not be helpful and would, in fact, eliminate

parking in front of his business, and those spaces are very important as his products aren't necessarily easy to tote to the Coliseum Parking Lot

Kendall, Sara, Bruce and Chris met with Mary Putnam (High Street Resident and owner of Walker House) and determined her real concern is the possibility that there may be parking in front of her home on High Street at Front making it difficult to access her driveway. They came away feeling she is on board with concept in principle with a caveat re parking at her home

Re: Support of a plan: Sara and Heather reminded the committee that when the flag pole at the base of High Street was proposed in 1992, there was great uproar and it eventually did proceed with private funding. Note: The Flag is now an integral part of Southampton's Character

Cheryl reiterated that Council will want absolute assurance that the support for High Street improvements are solid

5. Public Consultation:

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 10am-12pm
Lisa will book Town Hall

Lisa will send out press releases to papers, radio and post on socials
Also on Heather's podcast - Chris and Kendall

Lisa will see if an interview with Chris can be taped in late April for airing on the radio in early May

Lisa will have concept boards printed and mounted locally (cheaper than with JMA) and we will ask if these can be posted in advance in the windows of the firehall room of Southampton Arts for the weeks prior to the public consultation

Heather said that we should be able to borrow easels from the Community Services Department for the meeting on May 20

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 10am including JMA, via Zoom

A (REVISED) TENTATIVE TIME-LINE MIGHT LOOK LIKE:

Member in-person survey and email buy-in	Feb 15	
Survey of other key groups/ Champions Residents' Association, Legion, Southampton Arts Museum, Friends of the Flag, Marine Heritage, County, Churches	May 1-15	
Letters of support from Members and Champions	May 1-15	
Meet with Departments of Development (Mark Paoli), and Community Services (Kristan Shrider) to establish their needs and whether they would be doing any High	Jan 1-15	Heather will speak with both informally

Street infrastructure improvements such as burying hydro lines and bringing on fibre optic networks, sidewalk and street resurfacing, store entrance accessibility, water pipes, etc.

Determine what funding opportunities may be available

Town? County?
FedDev?

What would the normal time line be for infrastructure upgrades?

Town

Determine whether or not more information is required
From JMA

Feb 1

Publicise public meeting via social media, newspaper and possibly radio

May 1 - 20

confirm budget for materials and who will pay

Encourage local media to write a feature article on the Plan

May 1-20

Public meetings with large display boards and talking/written comment opportunities

May 24 weekend (May 20-22)

Collate comments and create presentation for Town Council

early July Council meeting

Determine whether further or more specific information be required from JMA in order for the Town to commence budget preparations, who would be responsible for those costs?