

MINUTES

date: 4.22.2019

meeting date: 4.22.2019 – 7:00 PM **at:** School Committee Room, Brookline Town Hall

re: Brookline High School Expansion Project – BHS Advisory Building Committee

attendees: BHS Expansion Advisory Building Committee (Committee)
George Cole, Nancy Heller, Susan Wolf Ditkoff, Andrew Bott, Mary Ellen Dunn, Ray Masak,
Anthony Meyer, Jenee Ramos, Bobbie Knable, Lakia Rutherford

Guest: Andrea Parzen

Absent – Mel Kleckner, Jordan Watts, Daniel Bennett, Matthew Oudens, Nancy O’Connor, Ian Roffman, Nicole Gittens

William Rawn Associates (WRA) – Andrew Jonic, Sam Lasky

Hill International, Inc. (Hill) – Paul Kalous, Andy Vo

Skanska – Ellese Lunde, Peter Roche

distribution: Ray Masak, Mary Ellen Dunn, Ben Lummis for distribution

attachment: Brookline High School Expansion Advisory Committee Meeting, 3/27/2019 slide show, by WRA

item: topic:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. George Cole motioned to approve the meeting minutes for the March 27, 2019 BHS Expansion Advisory Building Committee (Committee) meeting. Seconded by Jenee Ramos. All in favor.

2. Design and Schedule Update:

1. William Rawn Associates (design team) presented responses to comments and suggestions received from neighbors and commuters that attended the MBTA Platform meeting on March 27, 2019. Most of the comments are addressed on the current design.
 - a. The existing route to MBTA station from Davis Ave is through Cypress Field. The crosswalk from Cypress Field to the MBTA station will be coordinated with the Parks and Recreation team working on the Cypress Field design (Cypress Field design team). The intent is to align the route through Cypress Field, the cross walk and the MBTA desired paths.
 - b. The previous WRA’s design showed commuters crossing the Cypress Field over Tappan Street and walk west along the fence toward the entrance of Brookline Hills Station. The previous design showed 20 Town parking spaces and 8 MBTA parking spaces.
 - c. The current design of Cypress Building Plaza shows that the length of the fence separating the plaza from the platform is reduced to provide shorter access to the platform. The parking lot has been reduced to provide more plaza spaces.
 - i. The crosswalk has been moved to align with Cypress Field Path.
 1. Scott Englander asked if the crosswalk be widened to be double the size. This can help reduce the car speed.
 - ii. The path from Cypress Field to the Brookline Hills Station is a straight path.

- iii. Proposed design has 16 Town parking spaces. 4 Town parking spaces have been removed to increase the plaza spaces.
 - 1. Scott Englander asked if more parking spaces be removed to make the plaza bigger. The design team will review options for further parking reductions.
 - 2. Increasing the plaza size and reducing the parking area will cost more money to construct. Maintaining the project budget is a priority. Additional Street parking permits should be added if parking spaces at the MBTA station are reduced.
 - 3. Susan Wolf Ditkoff stated that the teacher's parking spaces are already beyond a half mile radius from the high school.
- iv. More bike racks have been added to the new design. Design team to review option to provide a canopy or covered bike racks and additional bike racks.
 - 1. Can there be an awning at the stair on Cypress Building? There is a slope at this location. An awning is not recommended to cover the bike racks.
- v. The ticket kiosk is located closer to the center of the platform.
- vi. Can there be space for food truck to service the public? Design team to review.
- vii. Additional seating was requested along the inbound platform and under the Cypress Building.
- viii. A fence was requested by the MBTA to prevent an overflow of students that may occur near the foot of the stairs and elevator from spilling over to the track area. The previous design showed the fence as the MBTA requested, and the current design reduces the length. The MBTA did not object to the reduction showed on the current plan.
 - 1. Many people stated they were in favor of the reduction of fence.
 - 2. Design team to review if the fence can be reduced further and add more bike racks at the platform.
- ix. A Cypress Field Design meeting is scheduled for May 1, 6pm -9pm.
- x. The drop-off lane has been moved west to be closer to UAB which widened Tappan Street.
- xi. The design team to review a suggestion for opposite angle parking spaces on Tappan Street.
- xii. Because of property lines, street alignment and topography, the Tappan Street sidewalk near Cypress Street cannot be made wider. The design team will review the suggestion to widen the Tappan Street side walk near Cypress Street by reducing the width of Tappan Street.
- xiii. The design team will be meeting with the abutter to the Cypress Building on April 25 to review the path to Brighton Road design. An opening in the fence on the south side of the MBTA platforms is designed to provide egress, similar to other locations in Brookline.
- d. Suggestions from the Cypress Field design team on the previous Tappan Streetscape include the following modifications shown in the current design:
 - i. Benches moved from north side of sidewalk to the south side to facilitate snow removal.
 - ii. 5' paver strip adjacent to curb change to concrete to facilitate snow removal..
 - iii. Increasing the plaza size at Cypress Building.
 - iv. Bench design to match Cypress Field benches.
 - v. Generally, the two designs will be coordinated so the area appears as one campus.
- e. Current design of Tappan Building plaza shows seat wall and benches at south side of sidewalk as suggested by Cypress team.
 - i. Snow falling from the Tappan Building concern that the benches are too close to building. Design team to review this potential issue.
 - ii. Elimination of brick paver strip because it is difficult to maintain.
 - iii. Three long benches in previous design is shown integrated as a seat wall.
 - iv. Additional bike racks are shown.
- f. The Prom will be June 3, 2019. The 3rd floor of Tappan Gym needs to be available for the students. There will be about 600 students using the Tappan Gym 3rd floor. There are no

construction activities scheduled for the Tappan Gym this summer, so there is no conflict. The 2020 Prom may be impacted by construction activities at Tappan and will need to be reviewed.

- g. WRA confirmed that shading diagram at STEM has been studied and incorporated into the design.

3. Next meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting will be at 7 PM, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

4. Adjourn

- B. George Cole motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Jenee Ramos. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.