



Northfield Town Common Conceptual Design

Steering Committee Meeting
July 25, 2024

Attendees:

John Stevens, Select Board Member
Merry Shernock, Select Board Member
Richard Wobby, Committee Member
Sally Davidson, Committee Member
Gail Hall, Committee Member
Emily Lewis, DuBois & King, Project Manager
Kait Campbell, DuBois & King
Five members of the public

General Comments

- We will have to **prioritize elements** on the Common since we can't be all things to all people.
- Coordinate with Jeff to **get all the summary reports on the Town website**.
- How can **outreach be improved** so that we can reach people who don't check the town website or FPF?
 - Can we include flyers in people's electric bills?
 - More posters around town?
 - Channel 7
 - Facebook Pages (multiple)
 - Merry - Steering Committee needs to take a more proactive approach to outreach
- For the **Conceptual Design presentation**, we should make the design concepts available online ahead of time for the community to review in advance.
 - Idea floated to have a **booth at Labor Day** rather than a presentation to allow more people to interact with the designs and provide feedback
- Farmer's Market: with the interest of the farmer's market being on the common, we must be cognizant of how many elements are included; may not be enough room
 - It's possible that the farmer's market organizers feel that they are running out of room on the common and may consider relocating

Conceptual Designs Feedback

- Concept A
 - Keeps fountain in the same space; refurbish and repave
 - Adds trees and plantings, particularly around open space where children may be playing



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- Wider pathways that are around the entire exterior
- Concept A Feedback
 - Feels like minimal open space and doesn't seem to leave much space for events
 - Have we taken into account accessibility design AND access to the farmer's market?
- Concept B
 - Moves the fountain to the western end of the Common
 - Shrubs block direct access to the street but paths connect the plaza to the exterior sidewalk
 - "Stream" water feature goes from fountain to an interactive water feature near the monument
 - Bridge crosses the stream as a nod to the covered bridges in town
 - Large grass area at east end of common with possible bus kiosk/shelter
- Concept B Feedback
 - has a lot of water, this may be taking away from available space.
 - Several people mentioned they liked moving the fountain over to make more room in the center of the Common.
 - There needs to be a drinking fountain in the designs
 - Show areas of seating
 - Keep in mind the location of the stage for Labor Day
 - "Splash" area is too close to monument
 - Generally like this idea but perhaps with the water elements toned back
- Concept C
 - Large open grass area on west side
 - Raised performance area in northwest corner
 - Increased planting beds with meandering paths
 - Paved patio stretches from open grass, past the monument, to the water feature at the east side; tree wells within the patio/seating area
 - Interactive water feature in lieu of the fountain with bench/seat wall along the easternmost end
- Concept C Feedback
 - Add the fountain back in on the east side and combine the fountain with an interactive water element.
 - Too much paving and the meandering paths feel repetitive
 - Like the idea of the fountain being prominent to Route 12
- General Feedback
 - Show the bulbout on each concept
 - Show bus kiosk location on each concept
 - Keep fountain on each one, different options on each
 - Balance the location of the bulb out with the fountain in the opposite corner?
 - Watch the language used - avoid "play area" and "splash pad"



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Schedule

- Current schedule is:
 - July 25 - Steering Committee meeting (Today) for rough draft concepts
 - August 22 - Steering Committee meeting for refined concepts
 - August 29 OR Labor Day weekend - public presentation/review ((online survey component?))
 - September 12 - Steering Committee meeting for draft final concept and conceptual cost opinion
 - September 24 - Select Board meeting for final presentation and public comments
 - +/- October 1 - final concept and cost opinion
- Feedback that the schedule feels too compressed. Consider pushing the draft final presentation to the Select Board Meeting on October 8 - extends the schedule by 2 weeks.
- Alternate Schedule (D&K to confirm with Jeff and SC; changes in *italics*)
 - July 25 - Steering Committee meeting (Today) for rough draft concepts
 - August 22 - Steering Committee meeting for refined concepts
 - August 29 OR Labor Day weekend - public presentation/review (online survey component?)
 - *September 12 - Steering Committee meeting to discuss public comments and elements for final concept design*
 - *September 26 - Steering Committee meeting for draft final concept and conceptual cost opinion*
 - *October 8 - Select Board meeting for final presentation and public comments*
 - *+/- October 15 - final concept and cost opinion*

Next Steps

- D&K to send working concepts, all summaries to the Steering Committee
- Jeff to post summaries to the Town Website
- Confirm alternate schedule
- Confirm booth at Labor Day
 - Schedule people to be at table
 - Advertise analog (flyers, posters, mailers) and online
 - Consider concurrent online survey for feedback on 3 concepts