



Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

JULY 21, 2022 10:00am

Virtual Public Meeting (recorded but, delayed start)

Meeting was called to order: 10:00am

Members present: Nancy Nelson (Chair), Bob Domnitz (Vice Chair), Richard Canale (Secy), Paul Fenelley, Jeanne Krieger, Sheila Page, Jennifer Pierce, Beth Williams

Also Present: Ann Clifford, Josh Levin MassDOT/District 4; Nate Socha/Beta Group, Ross Morrow, Sara Mattes

1. Review and Approve Minutes – Review of the minutes of 6/30/22 was deferred until the next meeting.
2. Project Updates
 - Rte 2A (Josh Levin) – 9/30 is the current projected date for project advertisement with construction start in fall/winter 2022. Nancy noted that the Section 106 process is not yet complete.
 - Rte 128 Bridge reconstruction – Josh reported that the projected date for advertisement may be January '23. He will provide a link and try to locate design documents. Ross added information including: 2 roundabouts on either side of the highway, increase in open space, multiuse path, removal of some off ramps and an expectation that speed will be reduced. Bob questioned the need for roundabouts. Nancy noted that the Committee seems to have missed opportunity to have input.

- (NOTE: Richard tried to speak but an audio malfunction made that impossible. The problem continued the entire meeting.)
 - BRSB grant – no update
 - Battle Green project (Ross and Nate w/Beta Group). A comprehensive power point presentation illustrated the plans for the Battle Green and immediate surrounding areas including landscaping, paths, circulation (vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle), crosswalks, islands, lighting (no traffic lights or flashing lights) and furnishings. Some work is underway. Sara asked about speed limit in the area. Ross responded that it would be 20 mph through the center to Muzzy Street. “Special Safety Zones” were created b/c the town now owns former county roads. Bob inquired about the total cost. A copy of the PP could be sent upon request.
3. Current Committee Member Rosters: requested the towns/park send to him (cc to Nancy) the names of current Committee members along w/terms and appointing authority. Members will be posted on Concord’s BRSBC page. He reiterated that the town currently chairing the Committee would post the agendas w/the four town clerks and the national park for public notice.
 4. BRSBC Minutes: Nancy requested that the towns/park locate and identify where past minutes (draft or final) can be found by members as well as the public. Richard proposed a month by month schedule for taking minutes. He will submit approved minutes to town clerks and the national park. Minutes will also be posted on Concord’s BRSBC page.
 5. Governance: updates/priorities: Nancy asked members to think about updating the MoU for the Committee and other governance issues and asked if MAPC might be a good facilitator for a discussion. We can take up this issue in the fall. Bob noted that the Committee is at its best when there is strong consensus via the current ‘super majority’ rule.
 6. Member Updates

Arlington - The Beer Garden events (Sat. 2-8) at the Jason Russel House have been very successful in bringing new folks (families, kids, lots of dogs) to the JRH. Ali has taken a position in Lowell. Planning for the Foot of Rocks project is ongoing.

Lexington – Ongoing work at Battle Green/Lex Center as presented in the PP presentation. This work is the result of a very long-term planning effort.

Lincoln - A tourist map is in production and will be interactive.

Bob asked if it could be distributed at the park. Jennifer P. was interested and requested a copy.

Concord – Beth reported on the progress of the new trolley which will operate 7 days/week from 9-4. They are ‘getting the bugs out’ after week 3.

An app to go along w/the ride and a user survey are being developed.

Nancy reported that planning for the rehabilitation and public use of Wright Tavern is ongoing.

Minute Man National Historical Park - Jennifer P. reported that excessive heat and a bad A.C. system at the Lexington Visitor Center will require abbreviated hours (9-noon) through the weekend until Monday when normal hours will resume. A special event/Open House at the Wayside is upcoming.

7. Other Business

All agreed to forego an August meeting. There was general agreement to place future draft Minutes at the beginning of the Agenda, to try to keep meetings to 1 hour and to allocate time for topics.