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12/16/2013 Minutes

Arlington Master Plan Advisory Committee

In attendance at Arlington Redevelopment Board

Minutes: December 16, 2013 - 7:00PM

Approved: January 9, 2014

Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall

Members present: Ann LeRoyer, Charles Kalaskas, Sheri Baron, Pam Heidell, Bob Radochia, Harris Band,

Members absent: Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Eric Bourassa, Carol Svenson, Greg Bowe, Joe Barr

Also present: ARB members Christine Scypinski, Chairman Mike Cayer, Andy West, and Bruce Fitzsimmons; David White (Conservation Commission); resident Brian Barber; David Gamble (Consultant); Leslie Mayer (Park and Recreation Commission); Carol Kowalski, Laura Wiener, Ted Fields, and Joey Glushko of the Planning Dept.

The meeting began at about 7:10 pm. Introductions were made for all in attendance.

Andy West presented and led discussion about the Mill Brook Corridor, its historic and potential future role in the community – especially as a long-term re-development project. Mr. West focused on these key elements for such a project:

- A site for mixed use development
- A site for open space linkage
- A coordinated link with the Minuteman Bikeway
- Sustainable mix of environs, using walkable, LEED-ND standards and stormwater controls
- A locus to advance historic/cultural tourism
- Commercial revitalization of neighborhoods linked to the corridor.

Mr. West's presentation lasted about 25 minutes; it was followed by much support for the many possibilities presented, acknowledging the diverse terrain, uses, interests in the corridor. Abutting land owners have not been contacted with these ideas – and it was recognized that master plan discussions might be a reasonable time to approach them.

Discussion followed for about 30 minutes – emphasizing mixed use, small scale, linkages, and “piece by piece” emergence of the area, keeping it local in scope and responsive to the diversity along the corridor – not as a single large development project.

Related examples that might serve as precedent from other communities successfully developing small and local include projects in Watertown and in Plymouth.

Andy West had notes about the Mill Brook areas; these were handed out to those present.

The ARB continued with their agenda, while MPAC members left.