



HALLOWELL PARKING COMMITTEE

Notes from September 29, 2020 meeting

Frank O'Hara, recorder

Attendance: Mike Frett, Matt Rolnick, Berkeley Almand-Hunter, Cary Colwell, Rick Seymour, Larry Davis, Frank O'Hara, Nate Rudy, Maureen Aucoin, George Lapointe, Matt

1. Rick and Larry reported on conversations with John and Aurelia at Berry & Berry. They generally oppose the park concept under any configuration. Nate reported on his conversation with building owner Mark Kimball. He loves Hallowell downtown, would be willing to work with the City to accommodate a park. Cary reported on the Vision Hallowell survey on the corner lot. Of 260 responses, 22% wanted the entire lot paved for parking; 36% wanted the entire lot left open for a park; and 36% favored a mix of parking and open space; and the remainder had a mix of opinions.
2. Larry reported on a number of planned moves of downtown businesses, and said he was very concerned about downtown vacancies. Everyone shares his concern. Frank suggested that this might be a subject for a special meeting of the Council and Board of Trade.
3. Berkeley felt that more spaces with 15 minute time limits (as is the case next to Boynton's) would be good for those downtown stores who have customers that stop for just one thing (like Berry & Berry's or Loyal Biscuit). There was a general discussion of police enforcement of time limits. Nate explained that lack of funding for parking enforcement, and the judgment of police about enforcing limits when there were plenty of spaces available, and the occasional negative reactions of businesses when limits are actually enforced, all complicate the enforcement picture.
4. Rick suggested that now that the upper parking lot is paved, it might be good to meet at the spot and look at how a mixed solution of some parking and some park would work at the spot.
5. Nate said he would be in discussion with MDOT about covering the railroad tracks again for parking (Frank added that Bob Stubbs had information about Hallowell ownership of the land under the tracks); and with the owner of the parking spaces in the PUC lot about possible purchase or lease. Frank also suggested (via Bob Stubbs) that the City contact the State Parks group about buying Jon Lund's space next to Lucky Gardens to add parking to the boat landing site.
6. **Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 7, at 5 pm at the corner lot** to discuss possible park and parking design. The **regular meeting of the committee will be Tuesday, October 27, by zoom**; the topic that meeting will be the overall parking situation downtown. Frank asked if there was any way to do the meeting indoors to accommodate Bob Stubbs, but Nate said that City rules would not allow a meeting in the upstairs hall.