

Town of Concord, MA  
Junction Village Open Space Task Force Agenda  
Virtual Public Meeting Agenda  
Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Pursuant to a notice and agenda filed with the Town Clerk, the Junction Village Open Space Task Force met on Feb. 10, 2022, and held a virtual online public meeting via <https://zoom.us>.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 by Carlene Hempel and was recorded.

Members present: Harry Bartlett, Christa Collins, Sue Felshin (clerk), Carlene Hempel (chair).

Also present: Peter Lowitt, liaison from the Concord Housing Development Corporation (CHDC); Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning and Land Management for the Town of Concord; Elizabeth Rust, Director, Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO); Linda Escobedo, Select Board liaison.

---

1/ Discussion and approval of minutes.

- On a motion made by Christa and seconded by Steve, minutes from the Nov. 18 and Jan. 6 meetings were approved as amended.

2/ Review updated concept plans.

- Carlene thinks this latest rendering is good, it's a concept plan and serves its purpose. In the new rendering, in response to the NRC's direction, the 25' and 50' lines are more obvious; there is no more "cauliflower" seating area in the river zone; the art plinths are out of the riparian (no-build) zone and there are now three plinths by the south kiosk. Also, the rendering now shows the width of the overlooks.
- Question about funding - CHDC funds approved for engineering & design planning, \$42,000 left in account.
- The flagging will cost \$4,400. The group decided to wait until the snow melts. It was noted that Annual Town Meeting is on May 1.
- Liz recommends adding 'screening' on the southwest side to block the view of the prison.
- Steve wonders if overlooks would be best as square and not round to add more space.
- The group was in agreement that the rendering is good as a concept plan for the purposes of Town Meeting.
- Discussion about the site's conservation restriction: Christa says she sent draft language to Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye but hasn't heard back. Liz wondered if we

need aerial photos or if it's possible to go less high-end. We also talked about whether we have to resolve future maintenance as part of the CR. Carlene said she can start working on maintenance. Christa clarified that the CR doesn't specify who does maintenance and not to worry about aerial photos; we can use the state's. She said we need to take ground-level photos close to when the CR gets recorded, and that should be 6–8 weeks before the CR is recorded. An occupancy permit for the assisted living complex is the trigger for when the CR is needed.

- Carlene said people are already asking about what plantings will be. Christa said the NRC has a list of recommended native plants. Marcia agreed that is a good starting point but will need to refine the concept plan, look at ecosystems and detail a plan for invasives removal. We will also need to survey the soil conditions and ID what plants will survive there. Carlene said she presented to the Pollinator Committee who are excited to partner on plant selection. Christa recommends not having human-edible landscapes.
- Survey details need to be completed.

### 3/ Discussion of next steps: Prep for Town Meeting; site walk; public hearing.

- Set a date for the Forum and site walk. Best to have late March, early April. April 6, 5–6:30 p.m., for the virtual forum is proposed and agreed on by consensus.
- Site walk happens before the Forum. March 26 at 9 a.m. is recommended and April 2 is a snow date. This is agreed to by consensus.
- Have the site flagged beforehand.

### 4/ Discussion of possible fundraising possibilities.

- How to maintain and cultivate relationships for memorial trees?
- Is the park Town property and could they maintain it? More research is needed. This committee can't request maintenance fees. Maybe an endowment could be established like a Friends group to fund maintenance. Endowments can only spend the interest, not the principal. Typically, a 5% draw on interest.
- Carlene said she's getting queries on memorial things—trees, benches. Marcia said this is a sticky point for Town—many people want a plaque but what happens when a plaque is damaged, or a tree dies? She said maybe instead we'd put memorial info online or be clear that tree survival can't be guaranteed.
- Trees cost about \$250–\$350 and at least \$300 to install. Marcia suggested charging \$2,000–\$5,000 per tree to cover cost of purchase and installation plus future maintenance.
- Christa said the River Stewardship council also has a grants program. Also, there are state trail grants that could be available. The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail might also contribute.

- Christa recommends a memorial tree path.
- Sue recommends no memorial trees near the river. Trees don't last. Write up a contract that the tree won't last.

5/ Public comment.

- Pam Rockwell of 1810 Main St. discussed how OARS is interested in removing invasive species and the need for native plants.

6/ Next meeting.

- Discussion of when in-person meetings will be allowed and the need for hybrid meetings. Some like all-virtual meetings.

7/ Adjournment.

- At 5:33 p.m., on a motion made by Christa and seconded by Sue, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Bartlett and Sue Felshin