

May 29, 2018 Amherst North Common Public Meeting – Resident Comments

Parking, Bus Stop, Pedestrians, and Traffic

1. Challenge the parking lot layout, maybe reduce the amount of parking
2. Need to accommodate parking needs for Grace Church, Town Common, and for Lord Jeffrey events – parking is important
3. The North Common is the heart of the town and right now it is a parking lot.
4. Need short term parking
5. Heart of Town is the South Common parking lot
6. Re-think parking lot
7. Need the parking, can't get rid of it as it is a major need
8. Reduce or eliminate all North Common parking
9. Views from the South Pleasant Street aren't nice due to the parking
10. Only have angled parking along Main Street
11. Use reverse angled parking as it is easier to see bicyclists and pedestrians
12. Move Town Hall bus stop to the Sweetser Park location
13. Scary bus stop at Town Hall
14. Close Boltwood Ave to vehicles or make it one-way
15. Provide terracing that is ADA compliant
16. Study the natural paths that people actually use
17. Concerned about people falling during vigils

Trees:

1. Maintain unique existing trees
2. Protect Trees
3. Shade trees are important
4. Have more shrubs, flowers, perennials, and fruit trees and shrubs
5. Too many trees there now
6. Does the space need to stay shady?
7. Think about planter boxes

Public Art & Performance Space

1. Make space for arts, improv, and civic engagements
2. Love art and sculptures – include public art as part of project
3. Have a giant chess board and/or interactive piece for residents
4. Include performance space in design

Design Inspiration:

1. People love Pulaski Park in Northampton – find inspiration from it
2. Love the new design of Pulaski Park, including the lighting, small tables, hardscapes rain garden, walking paths, sitting areas, and flowers
3. Restore the Town Common to its original design
4. Love Olmsted's curvilinear design
5. Look at the UMass LARP Design Studio project for the Town Common
6. Need vision and point of view for design

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7. This project gives opportunity to re-imagine the whole space
8. Embrace the Town's historical past and push us into the future
9. Make it a picture frame to Town Hall
10. Be bold, creative, and don't let parking dictate the design
11. Make a master plan which includes the entire Town Common and proposed outdoor bandstand
12. Use Goshen stone
13. Provide natural play elements

Project Timeline and next steps:

1. Slow down the design process for project
2. Extend the design phase for this project
3. Design ideas need to go on the Town of Amherst website for residents to review

Users:

1. Think about vigils, students, and events happening at the Common
2. Need more opportunity for children to play
3. Want a new bench installed for vigil

Stormwater:

1. Stormwater management will be a component of project
2. Think about how to design and manage the grading and erosion issues.
3. Are there hydrological barriers underground from 1870?

Maintenance:

1. Think about the maintenance needs and costs for the next +100 years