

North Hyde Park

Streetscaping Site Visit

October 14th, 2020

Present: Richard Amore (ACCD), Kate Lalley (Landscape Architect), Rob Moore (LCPC), Meghan Rodier (LCPC), Ron Rodjenski (Hyde Park Town Administrator)

Purpose: To identify streetscaping/placemaking opportunities to help calm traffic and act as a visual cue to enhance the presence of the village center.

North Hyde Park Village Center

- Ron noted the Town received a Cultural Facilities Grant to install a new heating system and upgrade electrical/wiring in the Grange building.
- Ron mentioned the Grange is used for community events such as farmers' competitions, road rallies, raffles, and potlucks.
- Richard inquired about who owns the turnaround/parking area next to the Post Office. Ron noted that Manosh owns it up to the drip line for the Post Office. Ron noted the Town has an agreement with Manosh to allow people to park next to the Post Office.
- Kate pointed out the river access behind the Post Office and the potential for a connector trail there.
- Rob mentioned that at the August MPG site visit, VTrans staff noted it could be possible in this area to reduce the travel lane width from 12.5ft to 11ft, leaving more room and opportunity for traffic calming/ streetscaping measures.
- Kate noted as part of a demonstration project you could paint the road shoulders to demonstrate the reduced road lanes/ widened shoulder, and test signage/ proposed crosswalks (one on Rte. 100 near Ferry Street and next to the Grange). A pedestrian zone could be created as part of the demonstration and data collected on how frequently people use the crosswalks.
- Kate noted in historic photos of the village there used to be a sidewalk on the east side of the street across from the Post Office. There could be an opportunity to restore this historic sidewalk.
- Richard noted that Fairlee, VT did a sidewalk reveal community event as part of a Better Connections Grant.
- Attendees discussed enhancing the road shoulder and accommodating pedestrians and parking better near the Post Office. The entry and exit to the Post Office parking can be more defined. There could be an opportunity to plant some street trees along Route 100 in the village core.
- Kate noted VTrans has a 3-rod right-of-way (up to the porch of the Post Office) in this location. All proposed plans will have to be run by VTrans.
- Ron noted the Town of Hyde Park budgets \$25,000 per year in the Capital Budget for sidewalks.
- Richard mentioned Cabot did compressed granite sidewalks. There is some flexibility in the materials you can use.

- Ron pointed out the red foreclosed house next to the Grange. There is a possibility the Town could purchase this property and utilize it as village parking space. There's room to establish additional parking behind the Grange building as well. Richard suggested utilizing the front of this property for public space near the Grange such as for a small river park and bandstand and use the back part of the lot for parking.
- Ron mentioned there are planning efforts in North Hyde Park to consider future community septic system options behind homes on the east/ residential side of Route 100. The village has public water supply, but homes and businesses are currently all on individual septic systems.
- Richard suggested utilizing paint and vertical landscaping features (grasses, flowers pots, whisky barrels, etc...) during a demonstration to slow people down and create a space for people to gather. Vegetation used should be below 36" tall so people can see it from their cars. Accent lighting such as stringing lights up on the Grange building can especially help the village center stand out to drivers in the winter time. Richard recommended the demonstration focus on the village core of North Hyde Park. Kate mentioned narrowing the curb radius of Route 100/ Ferry Street intersection and use paint to demonstrate a reduction in the curb radius.

Village Gateway (South end near 100c)

- Rob noted another safety concern is people being able to walk safely to the grocery store and gas station off 100c. Ron and Rob mentioned that a longer-term improvement would be to re-configure the Route 100/100c intersection so that it is more pedestrian/biker friendly. Possibilities to improve access management at this intersection could include adding a turning lane and narrowing the southbound curb radius. Kate suggested a mountable curb here could act as a visual cue and this could first be demonstrated with the use of paint.
- Ron noted the Town owns half an acre right-of-way near the junk yard on the north side. There is an opportunity to establish a gateway park here.
- Richard suggested focusing a connector path along the road shoulder/row on the west side of Route 100 to connect from the Post Office to the store on 100c and future gateway park. If the path is behind the Post Office/ other buildings it won't help with the need for visual cues to drivers to encourage them to slow down.

Village Gateway (North End Heading towards Eden)

- Meghan noted there have been concerns raised regarding people speeding straight through the Village coming from Eden due to the lack of a visual cue referencing the Village Gateway. A Village Gateway sign or other visual cues would be helpful here.
- Richard and Kate noted that other visual cues in this location would be helpful such as flags and public art (sculptures) to help people recognize that this is the start of a village center. These could be used in a demonstration as well as defining the entry/ exit to the Fire Station.
- Richard suggested as part of the demonstration you could also hang flower pots on the bridge leading into the Village.

- Kate noted the North Hyde Park/Eden Fire Station acts as the functional village gateway but the visual gateway really begins near the old fire station building. Kate noted the old fire station property could be a potential additional green space/parking area. There could be a green strip here along the street, green pavers for parking, and maybe a pavilion. This could be a future location for the farmers market. Ron noted this property is privately owned now and the Town would need to purchase it to implement those ideas.

Suggestions for MPG FY 20 Final Report

- Focus on what can be done next summer and demonstrated to calm traffic and improve the streetscape/ presence of the village center. Focus the demonstration on mobility, accessibility, and safety. **Revisit if planters can be placed in the ROW for the demonstration.**
- Note constraints to various options/solutions and projected timeline to implement (short-term, medium, long-term).