

## **Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 Village Strategic Planning Public Forum Notes**

The first Public Input Session took place last night (12/2) with Colleen Mailloux facilitating and Tori Burke as note taker. Here is a synopsis:

There were 31 attendees. Of those, eight were members of the steering or outreach committees. Other town groups or officials represented included HDC, Heritage Commission, ZBA, BOS, and Library, so that town officials made up about half of the crowd. About 15 were citizens with no role on the village strategic plan committee or on other town boards and had not attended a house meeting.

While most were Villagers, there was a handful from outside the village. Most have lived in the town 20+ years or 11-20 years. The overall consensus was don't change the Village, but people felt very strongly about traffic and speed as the primary concern. Another topic raised was overall excessive noise of vehicles/traffic.

People love the historical aspect and are very proud that it's such a unique gem. People moved here for the Village and love walking around the town and, all said, they walk daily even though the village is not as conducive to walking as they would like.

The need to make the Village a place that brings "non-villagers" in was also raised. Currently, Moulton's and the Library, and to a lesser extent, Mike's Auto and Town Hall are the most noted destination spots. It was mentioned that moving the post office out of the village had been a bad idea. Bringing back the Farmers Market was also something people would like to see.

Another strong theme throughout this session was the lack of a police presence in the Village and how a stronger police presence could reduce a lot of speeding. Suggestions were to pave Austin Rd so people further up Mack Hill Rd. could have better access to Rte.101 versus driving down Mack Hill, as well as making the bridge (currently closed) a one-lane bridge.

**Main themes:** improve walkability, control speed (law enforcement), and reduce traffic (spread it around instead of concentrating it on Boston Post Road). There was some interest in burying power lines; however everyone acknowledged the high cost of doing so.