

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
CITY OF SOMERSWORTH  
JULY 21, 2014

**DESIGN ELEMENTS OF THE DOWNTOWN/TE PROJECT.**

Mayor Dana Hilliard opened the workshop at 6:30 pm.

Director of Planning and Development Services, Dave Sharples, asked Council to consider color treatments for the Market Street plan. The landscaper wants to know if Council wants color added to the dyed concrete panels; four options were given.

The Gateway sign also offered four options. They would like confirmation of the wording and the color: Welcome to “Somersworth New Hampshire” or Welcome to “Historic Somersworth”, and signs: white with black or green with gold.

They will not be using a block wall; it will be poured concrete worked into the grading so that it will not be very visible.

Councilor Hebert wondered about the granite that has been pulled up.

Mr. Sharples said that will all be used on the lower sidewalks around Villa Pizza and Market Street.

Councilor Soldati asked if the concrete color will be solid throughout.

Dave Sharples said it will be, but he is not sure how it will wear over time.

Councilor Soldati’s preference is brick red.

Councilor Messier wants a darker color: brick red.

Councilor Witham agrees: brick red.

Councilor McCallion wants brick red. He asked about using Hilltop colors for the signs and thinks it should stay the same throughout (the City).

Councilor Tapscott wants brick red, also. He also wants the sign to say “New Hampshire.”

Councilor Sprague would also go with brick red. He thinks the signs are poor. He wants to go with blue signs.

Councilor Hebert wants the brick. He wants blue signs with different font. Old style, perhaps. And it should say “New Hampshire.”

David Sharples said the signs will be prominently placed.

Councilor Hebert thinks there needs to be signs on either direction of the bridge itself saying “Welcome to New Hampshire/Maine.”

Councilor Witham would be open to either sign scheme. What about other options, (i.e. granite?)

Councilor Soldati agrees about the font. The style doesn’t denote “historic,” she said, “It could be more creative.” She likes “Welcome to Historic Somersworth.” She said we should ask the State (about the signs on the bridge.)

Councilor Messier thinks we can assume that the State will do that.

Councilor Pepin asked about “Welcome to Historic Somersworth, New Hampshire. He favors the red brick concept. He wondered how it will stand up to salt. He wants this looked at.

Mr. Sharples will note that question.

Councilor Hebert asked where the wall is located, (answer: High Street/Market Street intersection.) It will be a wall along the top side and wrap around with a seat wall along the sidewalk of gray block.

Councilor Sprague asked about pouring a wall that looks like mortared stone, he feels that would be a lot less labor intensive. He would like to see that option.

Mr. Sharples said that this is all happening quickly but that there is some wiggle room.

Councilor Sprague wants another option.

Councilor Witham agrees, saying it would be easier to repair and practical.

Mayor Hilliard would like to plan to replace all the City signage, (High Street and Route 108, as well as downtown.)

Mr. Sharples said that can’t be done as part of this project.

Mayor Hilliard wants consistency.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elise B. Brellis, Deputy City Clerk

