

Harvard Town Center Sidewalks

A Brief Summary of History, Background and Process

December 3, 2019

History

*History of the Town
of Harvard,
Massachusetts:
1732-1893.*

Henry Stedman Nourse

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In 1886 a special meeting of the citizens organized for the improvement and embellishment of the common; and through subscriptions of money, the proceeds of fairs and other entertainments, and volunteer labor, many pleasing changes for the better were effected, including the curbing and grading of the chief roadways. In 1888, the Soldiers Monument added a prominent feature to the southern corner of the grounds. In 1890, the curbing of granite bordering the highways that cross the common was completed at the cost to the town.

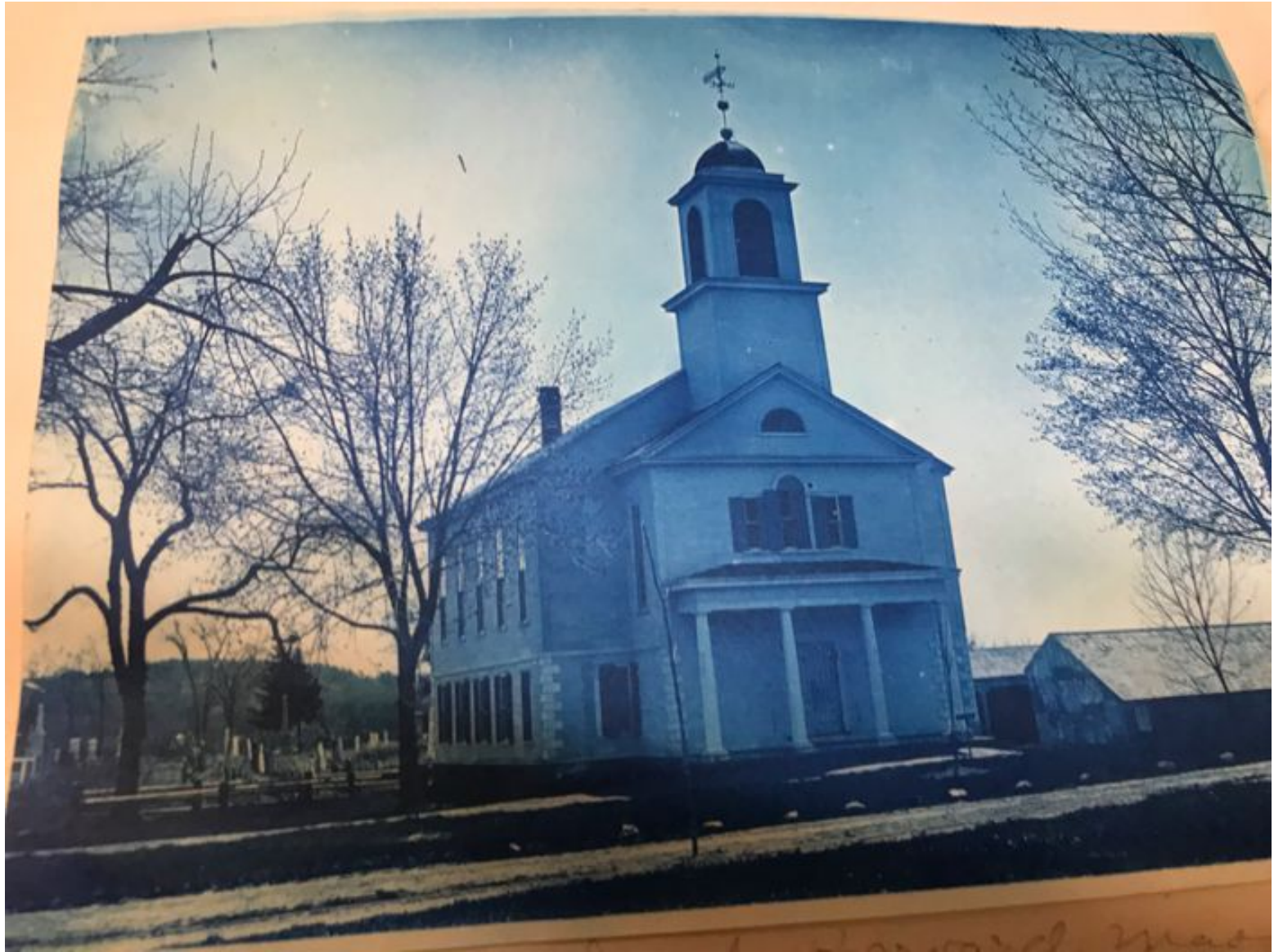




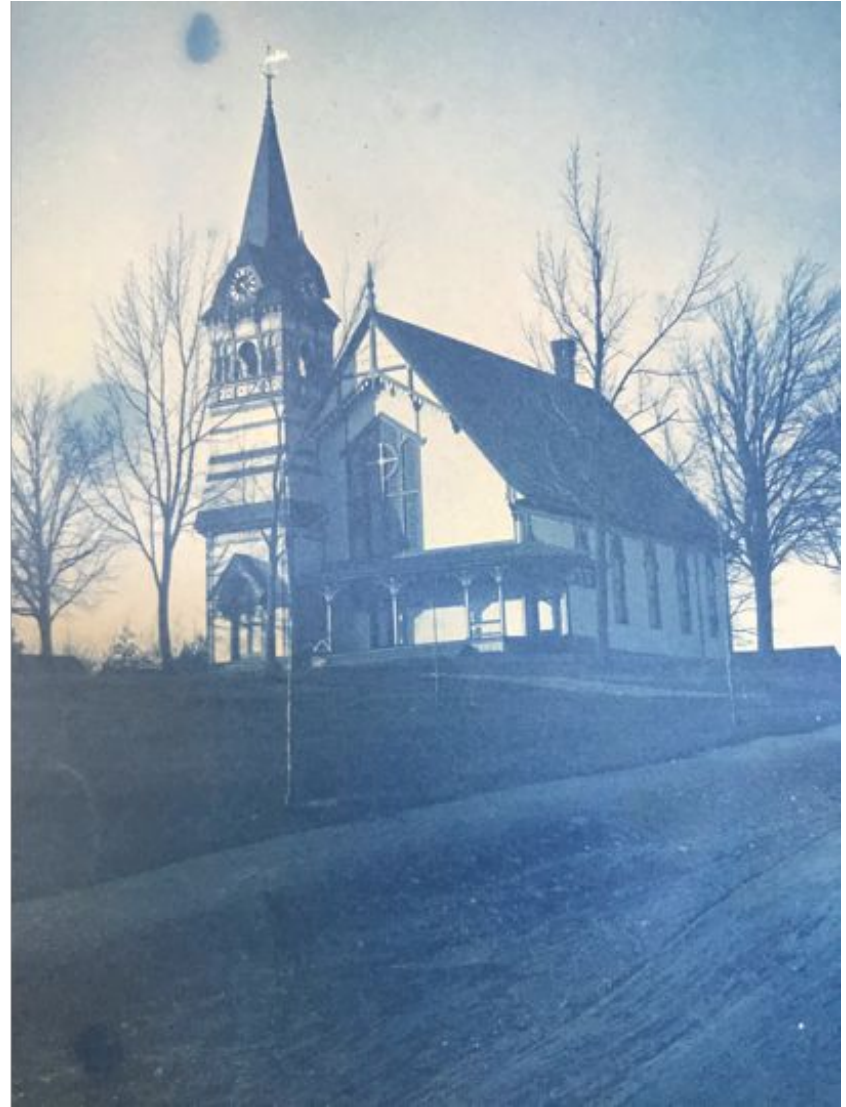
11 St. Bernard Mass.







St. James Church











Master Plans

- 2002 Master Plan Recommendation
 - Develop and implement a public realm plan for the Town Center in order to encourage pedestrian and bicycle access, assure attractive, safe parking, and provide adequate public amenities.
- Multiple public meetings and input into plan by Town officials, boards and committees.

Town Center Planning Committee (2004-2005)

- Susan Barber – Historic Commission
- Timothy Clark – Planning Board
- Mary Essary – Planning Board
- Sarah Hamill – Citizen
- Ginger Kendall – Library Trustee
- Ron Ostberg – Historic Commission
- Jack Purdy – Citizen
- Caroline Ready – Park & Recreation Commission
- William Salter – Citizen
- Lucy Wallace – Board of Selectmen
- Willie Wickman – School Committee

Process and Timeline

- Review of previous studies
- Input from professionals, led by Bluestone Planning Group
- Input from Town officials and other committees
- Public input – three well-attended community meetings
 - May 2004 – goals and ideas
 - July 2004 – initial recommendations for public comment
 - December 2004 – final recommendations
- Publication of final report – March 2005

Commentary on Town Center

“A sea of asphalt and undefined street edges with poor pedestrian crossings characterize the Route 110 / 111 intersection in the heart of the Center.”

“Currently, the Route 110 / 111 intersection is a wide swath of asphalt with ill-defined edges (e.g. no curb line – particularly in front of the General Store) that is dangerous to cross for both motorists and pedestrians. In addition, similar dangers exist in front of the current Library. Therefore, traffic and pedestrian safety at these intersections should be improved by reexamining their layout and operation.”

“Also, as traffic has increased, some see the necessity to add additional pedestrian sidewalks or pathways along street edges such as Still River Rd. where pedestrians now walk only on road shoulders or in the road itself.”

Recommendations

Specific improvement ideas for the 110/111 intersection include:

- 1) adjust the traffic light to provide a stop for vehicles traveling from all four cardinal directions;
- 2) narrow road pavement widths at the corners by extending the Common's lawn area to create smaller turning radii (making sure to confirm with the Fire Chief that the turning radii remain sufficiently large for fire apparatus and large trucks to negotiate the turns);

Recommendations

Specific improvement ideas include:

3) add well marked crosswalks which will be a shorter distance for pedestrians to cross since the road pavement widths will have been reduced); and,

4) install curb stone to better define the edges of the intersection, particularly in front of the General Store and Library (and correspondingly, establish a curb cut or driveway entrance to the General Store's parking area rather than leaving the broad parking apron that now exists.)

Town Center Transportation Committee (2015-2016)

- Michele Catalina, Chair
- Billy Salter
- Tim Clark
- Rick Maiore
- Linda Dwight
- Sue Guswa
- John Lee
- Ed Denmark (advisory)
- Rich Nota (advisory)

Timeline

- May 2015 – first meeting, with MRPC (Montachusett Regional Planning Commission)
- Dec 2015 – report from MRPC on pedestrian and bicycle patterns
- Feb 2016 – Complete Street grant application available; Select Board or DPW decides final application; can't fund paths or walks on private land (e.g. path from Bromfield to Town Center)
- May 2016 – held public forum for input prior to final report from MRPC, 25 people attended
- July 2016 – final report issued

Alternatives



- New sidewalk in front of General Store and church
- Continuing around corner to future sidewalk or path on Mass Ave.

Alternatives



Figure 15

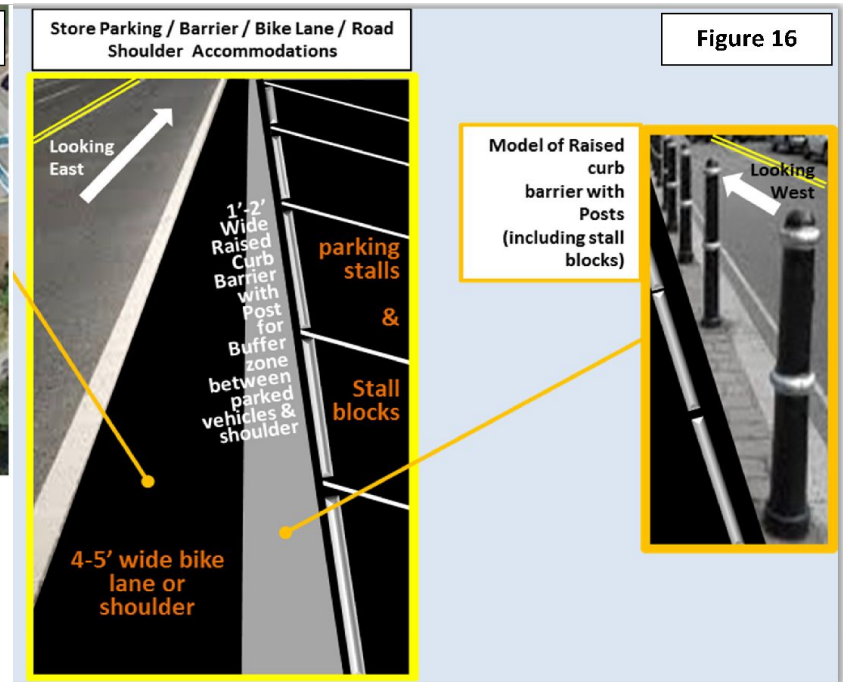


Figure 16

- New sidewalk in front of church
- Raised barrier with posts in front of General Store
- Sidewalk continues through parking lot, ends at store
- New sidewalk beginning at corner of Still River Rd and Mass Ave., continuing to future sidewalk or path on Mass Ave.

Recommendation from Members



- Sidewalk on Still River is preferred; raised curb barrier would be damaged
- Place 2-way entrance as far from intersection as possible for traffic safety
- Make egress from General Store onto Mass Ave. right turn only

Master Plans

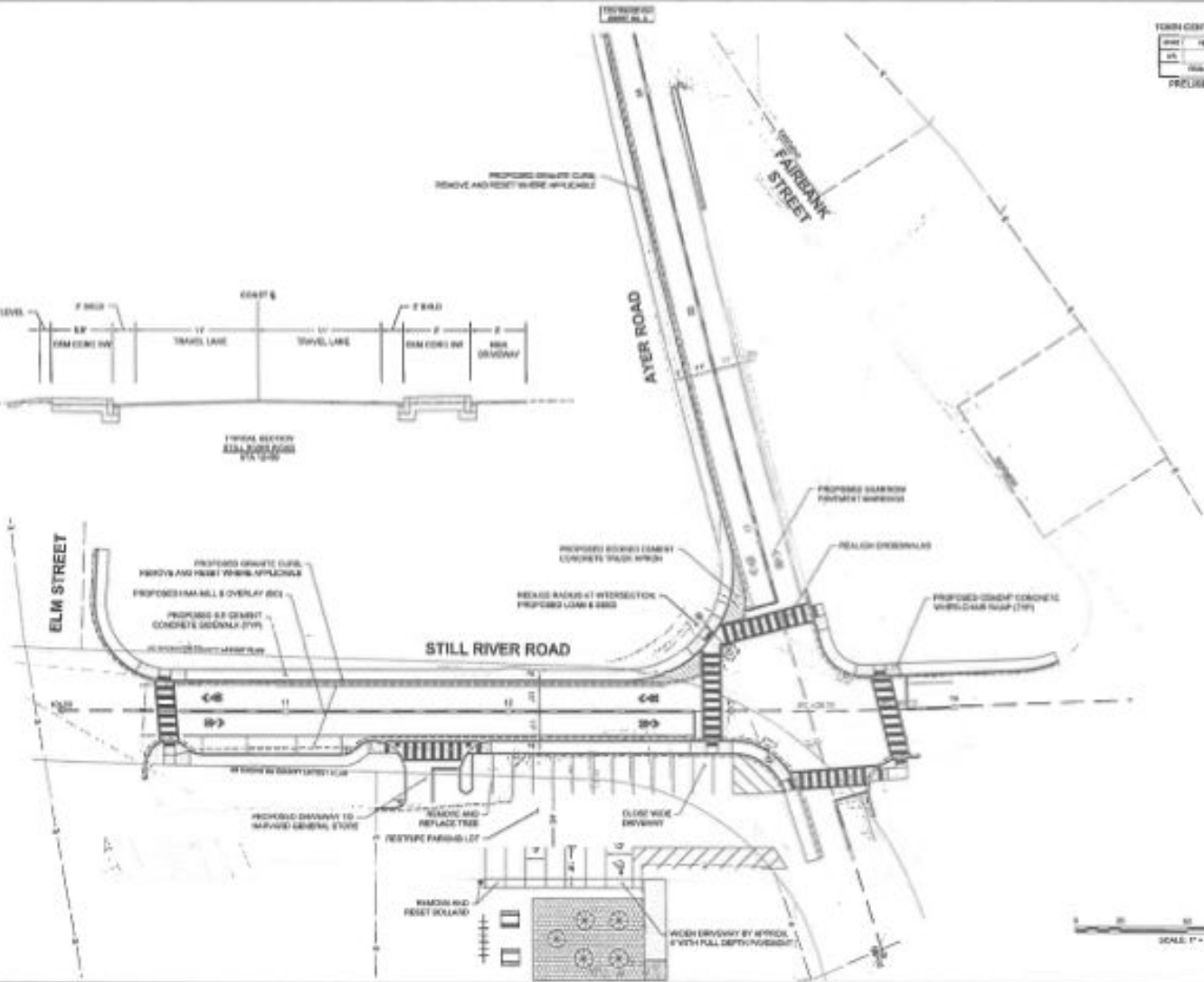
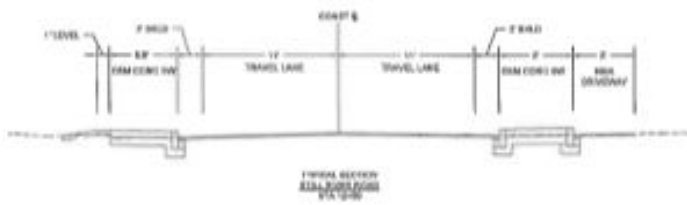
- 2016 Master Plan Update
 - Multiple public meetings and input into plan by Town officials, boards and committees.

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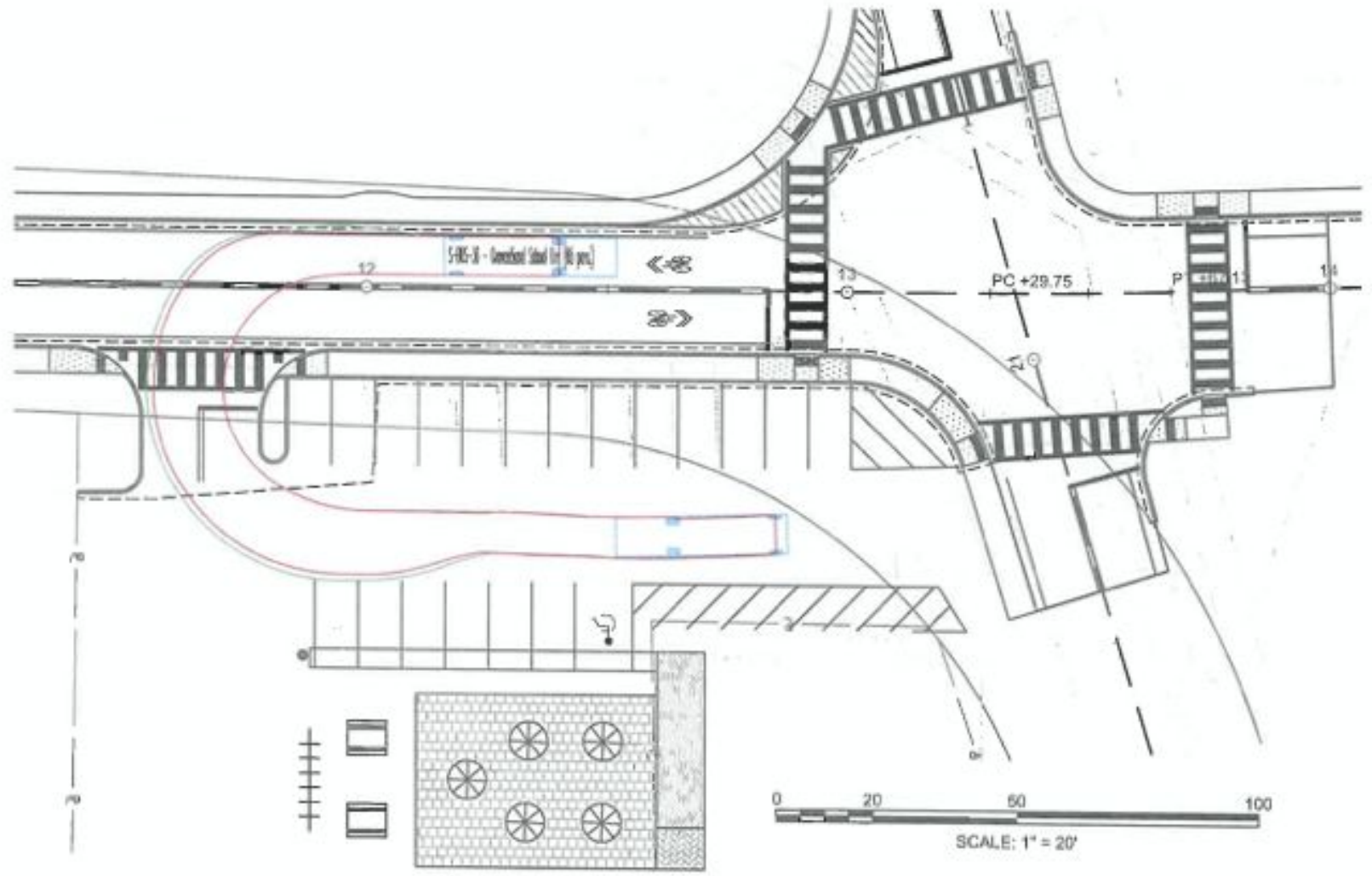
Recommendations for the Planning Board	Prerequisites	Resources Needed	<u>Status 6/18</u>
Continue to implement the Town Center Action Plan and the 2016 update prepared by MRPC	Place measures still not implemented in a budget and determine funding	Existing staff can develop budget. The Town will need to fund over a period of years. Make a systematic commitment to the Center every year	Board is working with the DPW to implement sidewalk recommendations
Improve sidewalk connectivity in the Town Center.	Needs to be built into the annual budget process so there is a recurring commitment	TBD based on capital budget policy	Town applied for MassWorks and Complete Streets funding.



SHEET NO. 101-101-01
 DATE: 08/20/10
 PROJECT: 101-101-01
 PRELIMINARY DESIGN - 1 OF 1



PREPARED BY: [unreadable]
 CHECKED BY: [unreadable]
 DATE: 08/20/10





FAIRBANKS
TOWN CENTER COMPLETE STREETS

NO.	DATE	BY	CHKD.
1	10/15/10	J. HARRIS	J. HARRIS
2	11/15/10	J. HARRIS	J. HARRIS
3	12/15/10	J. HARRIS	J. HARRIS

PROJECT NO. 10-0000000
PRELIMINARY DESIGN - 2 OF 2

