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Improvements recommended for Granville

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GRANVILLE -- A consulting firm unveiled on Wednesday recommendations for the village's downtown and waterfront revitalization plan.

The recommendations would affect Quaker Street, Main Street and the village's downtown, cultural campus and Riverfront Park.

"I'm glad to see the village working toward making a core area more pedestrian-friendly. And the Riverfront Park is just an excellent idea. I'm sure they'll make it a green oasis there," said Planning Board Chairman Lee Comar after the meeting.

The village would use the plan to secure grants and complete projects recommended by the proposal, which Elan Planning Design & Landscape Architecture put together.

On Quaker Street, the proposal calls for 12-foot travel lanes, a 5-foot bike lane, a 3-foot grass strip with optional curb and a 5-foot sidewalk.

Recommendations also include burying overhead power lines, making light fixtures similar to Main Street lights, minimizing unnecessary signs, paving sidewalks that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, installing crosswalks at all side streets on Quaker Street, and adding some trees near the high school.

Additions to the park include improved waterfront access and visibility, such as making trails for kayak and canoe launches; providing amenities like picnic tables, benches and pavilions; extending the Eagle Scout trail by the water and throughout the park; and improved vehicle access and parking.

For Main Street and downtown, the firm recommended relocating benches closer to the sidewalk and putting in sidewalks in front of Station House Bed & Breakfast, among other measures to enhance visual access to the water, businesses and store displays. Also included were improved landscape plantings and street tree beds.

Suggestions for the cultural campus included linking the Rail Trail, the Pember Library and Museum and the Slate Valley Museum; and the creation of an outdoor festival/vendor space.

Other ideas included branding the village; encouraging people to drive downtown rather than using the Route 22 bypass; and capitalizing on existing partnerships with regional organizations and government groups.

A public hearing has been set for October, and the firm anticipates that the village will adopt the proposal in late October or early November.

"I liked (how) they focused on specific areas in the community that I feel will enhance tourism, economic development, a feeling of community," Mayor Jay Niles said after the meeting. "It's a manageable triangle within the village."