

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Council on Aging Senior Center

07 April 2011

Committee Members Present:

David Martin

Sean Hanley

Pat Clifford

Pending Committee Member Present:

Clare Siska (acting secretary)

Committee Members Not Present:

Michaela Moran

Tom Campbell

Other Attendees:

Corey York

John Sonner

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:33.

Membership:

- John Sonner resigned effective March 3, 2011
- Clare Siska is on the list of pending appointees for Selectman's action
- There are currently 5 members; Clare Siska will make 6; the draft charter submitted to the BoS states 7. David would like to add a commuter that is not a South Acton resident.
- The League of Women's Voters and the Volunteer Coordinating Committee will co-host a Town Board Volunteer Fair on 4/26; David Martin will represent the SATSAC.
- The Town will conduct a general cleanup of email lists, committee postings, etc., in the coming weeks; typically done after Town Meeting.

Cross-Committee Contact:

- The SATSAC desires to foster contact with those committees with which we have shared interests.
- Sidewalk committee next meets on 4/13. David Martin will attend.
- TAC also meets 4/13. Pat Clifford will attend that meeting to get an update on the Minutevan.
- Franny Osman (TAC chair) informed David that they are open to someone from SATSAC joining their committee; David might be willing. David will ask to be put on the TAC meeting agenda for 4/27 to discuss options.
- The committee discussed a request by Jim Yarin to sharing meeting minutes with the TAC, and agreed that the preferred and more reliable procedure is for TAC members to refer to meeting minutes posted on the Town website.
- As a courtesy and to foster collaboration, the Chair will notify the Chair(s) of other committee(s) when the upcoming SATSAC agenda is likely to be of interest to another committee.

Rail Trail Interaction:

- Clare Siska and Sean Hanley shared their impressions of recent meetings between Roland Bartl, Town Planner, and abutters of the Caouette-Simeone Conservation Land. Mr. Bartl has drawn up

preliminary plans for ARRT parking on the eastern end of the Caouette-Simeone land, which has drawn opposition. These plans also redirect the rail trail egress and Maple Street crossing from the far eastern end of Maple Street to the existing tractor path across from Gordon Richards' property. Several alternatives were given to Mr. Bartl, the most obvious and fitting believed to be the Montourri property already under discussion with the MBTA. Corey York has the most current information on the state of that property and the correct contacts within the MBTA, being directly involved in the MBTA design discussions.

- As of 4/7, Mr. Bartl and Mr. York had begun discussing the Montourri option.
- The source of funding for paving, etc. of the Montourri lot (DoT/ARRT funds versus town funds) would need to be determined.
- Mr. Bartl indicated to Clare (email dated 4/5) that he is meeting with the DoT the week of 4/11 to discuss alternatives.

Publicity:

- John Sonner raised the need to step up publicity efforts in the coming months. There is evidence that a good number of people know very little about the project; there is also a continued misunderstanding by some that we are building a parking deck.
- Ideas for outreach included the Acton Patch (plans to talk with John are already in place); signage at the station; a blog model as done by Acton 20/20; town website; Town Meeting presence and presentations; eye-level posters at the train station. The MBTA typically also does publicity. We will continue to flesh out ideas at future meetings
- We agreed that the 60% design milestone (estimated June) is an appropriate time frame for increasing public awareness and we should have a publicity plan in place by that time.

Review of MBTA Discussions:

- David Martin, Sean Hanley and Corey York reviewed the progress of the recent MBTA meeting, most of which focused on landscaping. The design includes a full concept; some of which is out of scope of this project.
- Minimal loss of parking spaces (7 – 9 spaces) and land use for the plaza in front of the head house will require town approval. Parking loss is likely to be offset by additional parking on the Montourri lot.
- Some cost cutting measures have been brainstormed/discussed; costs seem to be equalling themselves out and are not expected to be a concern. The MBTA now taking the results of the meetings to complete the 60% design – expected in June. There will be no further joint town/MBTA meetings until that time.
- The committee also discussed timing and methods for sharing progress with the BoS, other committees, and ultimately the town. David Martin will draft a brief written report with a small number of representative drawings for our next meeting, when we will plan to map out next steps. Any presentations to or discussions with the BoS and/or other committees and town residents should include the AHDC architects that participated in the design discussions.
- David Martin will request an updated project schedule from Phil Brake.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20

The next SATSAC meetings will be:

7:30 Thursday 28 April at the COA

7:30 Thursday 19 May at the COA

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Siska

Links:

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=244> is the SATSAC page.

<http://www.littletonma.org/content/49/3594/5590/default.aspx> is Littleton's MBTA Commuter Rail Advisory Committee.

http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585 is the MBTA site about the project.