

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee
Meeting minutes - final
Council on Aging Senior Center
01 March, 2012

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Committee Members Present:

David Martin
Clare Siska
Tom Campbell
Michaela Moran

Committee Members Not Present:

Sean Hanley
Pat Clifford

Other Attendees:

John Sonner (BoS liason)
Corey York (Engineering)
Pam Cochrane (Sidewalk Committee)

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Review of meeting minutes

- The minutes of 01/26/12 were approved unanimously (Moran moved; Siska second)

CPC request (HDC) – status

- Mr. Martin reported that the CPC voted not to approve either of HDC's funding request for this year, including the Train Station request project.
- Several people on the CPC would have voted to support; but more felt there were higher priorities. Encouraged us to apply next year.
- Kathy Acerbo Bachman (HDC chair) is investigating putting the project on a future town meeting warrant outside of CPC funding. Ms. Siska suggested possibly grouping it with a Montourri parking project so we don't keep going back to TM for station money year after year.
- Construction is designed/planned to accommodate the future placement of trees.
- As of now the T will do minimal landscaping.
- Change orders might be possible if needed to accommodate future landscaping efforts.

Parking issues during construction

- Approximately 1/3 of lot closest to tracks (resident sticker spaces) will be lost during construction. Timing: Starts roughly at midpoint of construction and ends before construction is fully completed.
- Ms. Moran suggests the business area on corner of Piper Rd and Rt. 2 as a good location for shuttle drop off/pick up during construction, as it is never full.
- The BoS discussed new a proposed new metering system at their recent meeting. (Current meters are reaching end of life.) Mr. York described the types of new systems. TBD is the scheduling of implementation (before or after construction). Cost of parking at lot will increase – cost TBD.
- Mr. Martin prefers that we not increase prices until the station is completed – hard to raise costs when adding inconvenience.

- Mr. Sonner reports that Ms. Osman (Chair of TAC) would like to work together with SATSAC and town Engineering on related issues: using the Minutevan shuttle as the contractor's shuttle; change of shuttle route once new south side dropoff is built; and input on metering plan because the shuttle needs some of the metering revenues. (Home rule petition to use the funds from meters to fund the van – House 901 -- has not been approved yet; still in the state legislature.)
- Options for allocating parking during construction were discussed.
- Long term reconfiguration of spaces – SATSAC to look at design options as construction proceeds.
- The committee recommends that:
 1. We switch to the new meter system at the completion of construction.
 2. We keep the ratio of stickers and meters roughly the same as current during construction. This can be achieved by taking out same % of meters as spaces that are lost.
- Mr. Martin will draft a letter to the BoS outlining these recommendations.

Publicity: poster, rail chat, Email, QR code, etc.

- Mr. York arranged with the head librarian to move the large poster from town hall to the main library in 1 – 2 weeks, after the Acton 20/20 materials are removed. Flyers will be provided along with the poster.
- The Rail Chat can be used to deliver information (e.g., construction schedules), but members of the committee cannot deliberate or comment on the Rail Chat per OML.
- Future revision of the flyer could include a QR code that links to SATSAC web site. Mr. Martin can generate the QR code.
- Mr. Martin to work with Mark Hald (IT):
 - Can he set up SATSAC email so that emails sent from SATSAC display “SATSAC” in the From field, rather than the name of the originator of the email?
 - Enable users to sign up for email updates when the SATSAC web page is updated
- At the next meeting we will discuss process and owner(s) for official communications about the project (Rail Chat postings, responses to emails, etc.)

Town Meeting – continue planning – (Town meeting starts April 2nd)

- Mr. York has arranged for a table.
- Should be staffed both Monday & Tuesday (Mr. Martin, Ms. Moran, Mr. Campbell commit to staffing; others welcome)
- Materials:
 - 2 large posters (building and site plan)
 - 200 – 300 flyers
 - laptop with slides (Mr. Martin will check with the MBTA to see if we can show the FLWG slides.)
- Set up 6:15, done by 7:30

MBTA cutback reaction – update

- Meeting 3/1/12 in Waltham; at Fitchburg library Wednesday (3/7/12). There will be a shuttle from the Fitchburg station to the meeting.

MAPC Update – review recommendations

- Tabled to next meeting

Lighting planning

- Parking lot reconfiguration may impact lighting

- Mr. Campbell and Mr. York pursuing MAPC grant opportunity to change lighting fixtures; part of a statewide bid for multiple projects and potential for quantity pricing
- Potential rebate from NStar could also apply
- Mr. Campbell moved that he and Mr. York be authorized by SATSAC to submit an “Indication of Interest” to MAPC. Ms. Siska second. Approved unanimously.

Whistle ban – contact representative (Jane Adams)

- Mr. Martin has not yet contacted Jane Adams but will follow up.

Committee Calendar

- Upcoming Committee Meetings
 - March 8
 - March 22 -- last meeting before town meeting
 - April 12
 - + every 3 weeks after that
- Publicity
 - Q1 / Q2 Pamphlet handout at station
 - Q1 / Q2 Station cleanup project.
 - April 2 & 3 – Table at Town Meeting
 - TBD Information Session with MBTA
 - Q2 ? – articles in surrounding town papers; around bid acceptance
 - Q2 ? – Announcements on home page of town website
 - ? – Groundbreaking ceremony

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn; Ms. Moran seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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.