

# South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - final

Acton Senior Center

30 August, 2012

## Committee Members Present:

- David Martin
- Clare Siska
- Sean Hanley
- Pat Clifford
- Tom Campbell

## Committee Members Not Present:

- Michaela Moran

## Other Attendees:

- Kristen Hall & Buffy Harvey-Forsythe, 57 Maple Street
- Jill Gregory, 49 Maple Street
- Corey York, Director of Public Works & Town Engineer
- John Sonner, Selectman & SATSAC liason to BoS
- Dana Snyder-Grant, Sidewalk Committee
- Senator James Eldridge

**Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.**

### 1. Review of meeting minutes

- Approval of the minutes of 06/21/12 was deferred.
- The committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of 7/26/2012 with one correction.

### 2. Comments from the Public

- *Ms. Hall asked about the purpose of the new platform behind 57 Maple Street. To be used on and off throughout construction. Exact time tables for use TBD.*
- *Ms. Hall requested that sufficient trash receptacles be provided. The committee will take this concern to the Public Info Session.*
- *Ms. Hall and Ms. Gregory requested adjustment of the temporary lights, downwards and not towards people's houses. Overall light pollution is a concern. Multiple neighbors impacted. Temporary lights were adjusted once; will request another adjustment. Question will be raised at Public Info Session. Noted that new (permanent) station lighting will be non-polluting.*
- *Ms. Hall and Ms. Gregory expressed concern over indiscriminate and wide ranging use of weed killers and tree trimming of vegetation. Plants on personal properties damaged or killed. Brush piles have not been removed. Residents moved the piles and had resulting rashes and illness after exposure to the chemicals. Request advanced notice and cooperative planning with neighbors. Mr. Martin will pass this information along to his contact at the MBCR and urges residents to raise the issues at the Public Info Session as well.*

- *Ms. Hall asked for an MBCR contact that neighbors can contact themselves.*
- Additional committee discussion:
  - Ms. Clifford suggests that Mr. Sonner inform the BoS about these concerns and ask them to weigh in; cites SATSAC's role is as an advisory board to the BoS.
  - Mr. Hanley inquired about town representation at weekly or biweekly construction progress meetings – Mr. York suggested it would be himself + a representative of the police department.. Paul Hadley would be the contact for info on these meetings and invitations.
  - MBCR is responsible for the track work and tree trimming. Project manager for that has an association with Paul Hadley. Question: Is Paul our contact for these concerns?

### **3. Construction update – concerns, schedule, disruptions, etc.**

- Mr. Martin reviewed the updated project phases
- Mr. Campbell would like more details presented on the SATSAC website and timely updates. Key components people will care about include impact on parking lot and shuttling to/from satellite parking lots; also any train delays or changes. People want a snapshot of things that are going to impact them.
- Can we obtain meeting minutes from construction meetings? This would provide us with much-needed info we can translate and share with the public.
- Concern that town IT department needs to be able update things on the website more quickly. On main page of the SATSAC page we can update stuff weekly. The key thing is getting the info from the MBTA and contractors.
- Station access:
  - There will always be North side access. Sometimes the south side will be closed.
  - Fences will prevent entrance to construction area – will be difficult to get through.
  - People will be discouraged from entering the trains Right of way
- Martin Street and eastern Central Street crossings will not be done until 2014 after track realignment is completed.
- Contract has been awarded to McCourt Construction (<http://www.mccourtconstruction.com/aboutus.html>)
- Additional information from Senator Eldridge:
  - The senator urges SATSAC to reach out to him if we are having any problems resolving issues regarding the project.
  - Ms. Clifford asked whether recent state transportation board resignations would have any impact on the project. Senator Eldridge: No; all funding is in place and project is moving forward.
  - Ayer is now submitting a request to build 100 parking spots; potential for additional parking relief
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### **4. Station easements - update**

- Mr. Martin presented the agreement made between the town and the MBTA.
- Ms. Clifford inquired how “the town” is defined – whether non-town organizations, such as clubs, could do things in these areas. She suggests that the Town of Acton have control over this.

### **5. Finalize brochure**

- Mr. Campbell asked us to revisit the schedule to provide as much relevant detail as possible; e.g., when does the parking lot become Inaccessible?

- Request for the addition of information on Stow and Martin Street sidewalks.
- Mr. Hanley moved that the committee approve the updated brochure with updates to be made by Mr. Martin and Ms. Siska. Ms. Clifford seconded. Passed unanimously.
- In future versions of the brochure, information about Littleton could come out.
- Brochure will be completed and copied in time for ABFM table (9/16)

#### **6. Public Info planning – invitees, minutes, agenda, etc.**

- Thursday, September 27, 7:30 - 9 PM, Town Hall room 204.
- Purpose of meeting is for the town and commuters using the station to get info from the MBTA and contractor.
- Panel includes Mr. Martin and Ms. Siska (managing any email questions coming in); Mr. Sonner for BoS, plus MBTA, HNTB and McCourt representatives, MBCR?
- Agenda – introductions and overview of scope of meeting (Mr. Martin); quick project overview presentation; overview of construction phases and what town can expect; interactive Q&A. Committee approves agenda; Mr. Martin will post.
- SATSAC will submit prepared questions to the MBTA and contractor ahead of time. Public encouraged to send questions to SATSAC email address. Committee members asked to submit questions to Mr. Martin.
- Televised session needs to end promptly at 9 PM. Additional questions can be submitted by email to SATSAC
- Mr. Sonner suggested that Mr. Martin and Ms. Siska be provided with the MBTA presentation ahead of time to keep it on point. Presentation should be simple, exclude engineering-level drawing but include many illustrations that residents can relate to.
- Presentation should be fact-based and emphasize IMPACT ON ACTON: Public safety issues – lighting, congestion, trash, etc. Not PR for the T.
- Ms. Gregory suggested the MBTA provide a brochure or FAQ sheet. Our brochure might serve this purpose; copies should be available on entrance to the room. MBTA presentations will be made available on our website.
- Noted that MBTA websites provide only overview information and are not up-to-date.
- Mr. Martin will invite our legislative delegation – Senator Eldridge, Reps Benson and Atkins, Congressman Nikki Tsongas, Acton BoS, Acton Town Manager.
- Minutes – Mr. Campbell will take minutes; Mr. Martin requests and informal count of general question topics (e.g, # of questions about parking, etc.)
- Mr. Martin will set ground rules ahead of time and limit the amount of time allowed for questions. Suggested: 1 minute per question; follow ups go to the back of the line. Our opportunity to ASK QUESTIONS; not make statements or grandstand.
- Afterward, we can add a Q&A area to our website and we will post answers, continue to invite people to our meetings, etc.
- Acton TV Filming – Mr. York has contacted them; should be all set. Need confirmation
- Room setup : like Fincom – big arc for panel; rows of chairs for attendees; microphone, screen and projector.

#### **7. ABFM table.**

- Sunday, Sept 16
- Shift 1; 9:30 – 11:30 (includes setup) – Mr. Hanley and Mr. Martin confirmed
- Shift 2; 11:30 – 1:30 (includes takedown) – Ms. Clifford, Ms. Moran, Mr. Martin confirmed.
- Ms. Siska to provide brochures
- Ms. Osman/TAC will share booth with us.
- Mr. Martin will get posters and easel(s?) from Mr. York.

## **8. Publicity – Municipal Quarterly poster, flyer, website, TV, etc.**

- Brochures – Hand out at station ~ 1 week before the info session
  - Wednesday, 9/19; rain date Thursday 9/20.
  - Mr. Sonner, Ms. Siska and Mr. Campbell will staff the 6:38, 7:08, 7:37 AM trains.
  - Mr. Martin will do the 5:51 AM
  - Ms. Siska may also do the 7:58 AM
- Announcement in Municipal quarterly– comes out in October – Ms. Clifford will handle this.
- Mr. Martin will notify the Beacon and Patch should about the public info session. He will also contact Richard Degan to add it to the Acton TV calendar.
- Mr. Martin will update the SATSAC website with meeting info.

## **9. Parking issues during construction, expansion, lighting, etc.**

- No issues

## **10. Coordination – TAC, Economic Development Committee, etc.**

- No issues.

## **11. Future Meetings, Calendar.**

- Upcoming SATSAC Committee Meetings:
  - 9/27 Public Info Session
  - 10/11
  - 11/1
  - + tbd after that
- Other significant dates:
  - 9/19 or 20 – flyer distribution at station
  - September 16 – ABFM table
  - TBD – Groundbreaking ceremony – Recommend that this take place in October before colder weather sets in. Mr. Martin to discuss with Paul Hadley.

## **12. Adjourn**

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn. Ms. Clifford seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clare Siska

*Links:*

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/satsac> 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](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585) is the MBTA site about the project.

<http://groups.google.com/group/South-Acton-Rail-Chat?lnk=srg&hl=en> – South Acton Rail Chat