

SOUTH ACTON TRAIN STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

7:00 PM THURSDAY 26 MAY

ACTON TOWN HALL ROOM 204

Committee present:

Bob Condon
David Martin
Michaela Moran
Sean Hanley
Tom Campbell

Others present:

Corey York, Town Engineer
Peter Berry, Board of Selectman
various members of the public

The meeting was called to order about 7:15.

The main purpose of the meeting was a presentation and hearing on a proposed parking rate increase. Corey York made a presentation about the parking facilities and proposal to increase the daily parking rate from \$2.50 to \$5.00, with proportional increases of other rates.

The committee heard the following feedback from the public:

- Against reserved parking spaces at Jones Field. Parking spaces should not be allocated to those, who can afford to pay.
- There are not enough bike racks. People are forced to lock their bikes to the benches, which take up too much room and are not as important. (The committee responded that the project was not yet complete, and there would be more spaces available upon completion. Also, the town has applied for a Complete Streets grant for even more bike spaces.
- Seen cars going the wrong way on Maple Street from Stow Street to reach the station entrance. Need additional signage.
- Combined with the MBTA fare increase, the jump in parking rates is excessive.
- Need more bike space.
- (Related a letter from a resident, who is against the parking rate increase. In fact, she didn't see the need to charge for parking at all, but she did see the need to provide additional parking.)

When the public had no more feedback, the committee discussed the parking rate increase and the following points were made:

- It's been over 10 years since there was a parking rate increase.

- The Jones Field program was structured to assure availability of parking for the ball field and playground.
- The Jones Field reserved parking program discourages trolling for available parking in the neighborhood.
- The resident sticker program assures that residents have a greater opportunity to get a space, which is extremely important to residents. There would be less access to parking for residents, if all the spaces were metered.
- The \$5 rate is required to cover expenses, especially potential acquisition of additional parking.
- The rate should not be lower than surrounding towns, so that the draw does not continue to stress limited parking availability. The combined daily rate and rail fares are: \$13.50 one way from W. Concord, \$13.75 one way from Littleton, \$22.00 round trip from W. Concord, and \$23.50 round trip from Littleton. A \$5 rate at S. Acton would assure that we were not cheaper than surrounding towns.
- New marking machines will be installed at the station as soon as the project construction is out of the way. It would be nice if the parking rate changed at the same time.

In the end, the committee voted to reaffirm its previous recommendation to the selectman with the following motion, which passed unanimously.

Move to have the chair write the Board of Selectman to pass on feedback from this meeting and to reaffirm the \$5 meter rate recommendation and proportional increases for other rates as proposed by the Town Engineer. And that we recommend keeping the rate steady for 5 years. And that after a lengthy discussion we recommend keeping the current types of parking rates in each designated area.

The next meeting is proposed to be either 16 or 23 June.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:45.