



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2023

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Zhengyu Huang, Franny Osman Paula Walsh,

Absent: There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: Not present

Invited guests: Nirupama Valankar - Council of Aging Liaisons; QinRui Pang-Town of Acton Engineer; Dave Merberg-Nashoba Regional Greenways Volunteer

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- a. Tabled until the next meeting

B. Shared Concerns:

- a. Nagog Hill Road: Citizen concern that the road needs a sidewalk due to increased traffic with the changed pattern in Acton Center. Town Engineer QinRui responded that a traffic count had been performed but another count can be performed to identify any changes in traffic volume.
- b. Senior Center: No update

3. New/Special Business:

A. Nashoba Regional Greenways: Dave Merberg, a volunteer with NRG provided the Committee a presentation about NRG and asking for help:

Assistance getting buy-in from relevant Acton Boards, Offices and Executives.

Assistance applying for resources (grant applications) for immediate needs

Promoting the idea of the NRG out to pertinent Acton people

Recommendations from TAC members included going to the Select Board and the Town manager with specific proposals such as assigning tiers to the various roadways, specifying which need road work to make them safer for bikers vs those simply needing signage. Rama volunteered to contact the Town Manager with the initial NRG information.

B. Engineering update: QinRui Pang from the Town Engineering Department updated the Committee on the status of various projects:



River Street: Started as a One Way several weeks ago
Structural Engineers: Have been contracted for three bridges
Taylor Road: Stone Walls and other finishing work is being conducted
Acton Center: 99% complete; pavement markings will be next
Prospect Street: Design complete; now seeking funding
Willow Street: Retaining wall has been approved
Parker Street: Sidewalk completed; need a few minor projects to complete
Main Street: Will soon be underway
Jefferson-Design planning underway
Parker at School Street: No update
Brook Street: The Bridge is a bottleneck for traffic. TAC will make this an agenda item for the next meeting.

- C. Van services to town events: Franny discussed the prohibitive cost of using the van service (\$500 to hire a driver) for events where only a small number of non-driving or transit dependant people will be attending.
- D. Taxi Service: Franny was able to report that the town has come to an agreement with Joanne's Taxi and Annex Taxi. Services should begin soon, along with information on how people can register for the service.

At 7:02 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Franny Osman and seconded by Paula Walsh. Roll call was done, and the motion was approved unanimously,

Acronyms:

ADA= Americans with Disability Act

ARPA= American [COVID-19] Recovery Program Act

Boston MPO= Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization, the part of MassDOT that disburses federal transportation funds

BAG= Bicycle Advisory Group (formed January 2021)

CMAQ= Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

COD= Commission on Disabilities

COVID= Novel Coronavirus 2019 causing a worldwide pandemic in 2020

CTPS= Central Transportation Planning Staff, within the Boston MPO, within MassDOT

**Landline= a signage and wayfinding project to connect communities by bike and pedestrian, by MAPC and MassTrails of MassDOT.*

MAGIC= Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination, which is our 13-town subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MAPC= Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MassDOT=Massachusetts Department of Transportation

MBTA= Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

NRG=Nashoba Regional Greenways Coalition

SATSAC= South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

TAC= Transportation Advisory Committee

TMA= Transportation Management Association