

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - final
Council on Aging Senior Center
21 June, 2012

Committee Members Present:

David Martin
Clare Siska
Sean Hanley
Pat Clifford
Michaela Moran

Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Campbell

Other Attendees:

John Sonner (BoS liason)
Corey York (Engineering)
Pam Cochrane (Sidewalk Committee)
Tom Kelleher (Assabet River Rail Trail - ARRT)

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

1. Review of meeting minutes

- The minutes of 05/31/12 were approved unanimously. (Ms. Siska moved; Ms. Clifford second).
- Ms Siska will double check to make sure all approved minutes have been posted.

2. Public Input – Email responses

- No comments

3. Construction issues – weekend disruptions, noise, etc.

- Bid tour was held Tuesday 6/19
- Bid meeting was held Wednesday 6/20.
- No changes to schedule known at this time; Mr. Martin will check in with Paul Hadley.
- End of construction time frame is not clear– not known if delays to project start will push out end date. Ms. Clifford would like more information; states impact on time frame for elevator contracts.
- Track alignment work from MBCR still scheduled to start in late July.
- Stairs, cleanup of platform at temporary station has commenced. Hay bales have been placed along current station to catch runoff.
- Construction activity at various crosswalks was noted; footings being put in place
- State of the Montourri property purchase unknown – Mr. Martin will inquire.
- Times of day that construction will be allowed was settled by BoS and information included in bid package.

4. Publicity – poster, flyer, website, TV, etc.

- Mr. Martin will post info about July construction activity on our website; Acton TV bulletins; Acton Patch and Rail Chat.

- Mr. Martin will ask Mr. Hadley about a schedule for public info session (September?)
- Edits to brochure to be on agenda for next meeting.

5. ABFM table

- Agreed to date of September 16, jointly with TAC
- Ms. Siska will coordinate this

6. Parking issues during construction, expansion, lighting, etc.

- If contractor is to provide shuttle service, we want to promote their use of the MinuteVan. This was discussed favorably with Ms. Osman previously, but it was too early to take action.
- Ms. Clifford urges internal discussions commence, as MinuteVan funding is threatened.
- To start, we can arrange for Franny Osman to connect with the MBTA and selected contractor; SATSAC can facilitate this. Before the public info meeting would be best.
- Noted that the service not needed until CY 2013 when parking is interrupted
- TAC should prepare for discussions with the MBTA. Mr. Sonner will make contact with Ms. Osman. Noted that Mike Gowing is the TAC liason moving forward.

7. Coordination – TAC, Economic Development Committee, etc.

- See above notes re: TAC.
- No EDC updates. Mr. Martin will try again to attend one of their meetings.

8. ARRT & Conservation Restriction.

- Mr. Kelleher briefed committee on status of the ARRT construction TIP funding
- 25% design was submitted to DOT in November, 2011, but the State was not ready to hold 25% design hearing.
- Design money is still in place, but ARRT will probably get dropped from 2016 construction TIP
- Final vote for 2016 construction TIP funding is 6/29.
- Issues negatively impacting ARRT standing include:
 - Some minor Rights of way issues in Maynard remain unresolved
 - Caouette Conservation Restriction Committee issues regarding placement of trail on the land
 - More difficult CRC issue is that Mass DOT and the federal government will not give out funds if the land is under control of a non-elected body; Acton Conservation Trust and Sudbury Valley Trustees (non profit entities) will hold the CR. State environmental agencies have language requirements for protection of conservation land.
- Next vote is June 2013; takes place annually. Resolution of these issues could bump ARRT back to 2016 or better.
- To try to resolve the CRC issues, a meeting was held in late April: Mike Gowing, Janet Adachi, Roland Bartl, CRC and DOT Highway engineer toured the site and discussed resolutions. A proposal was sketched to “split the difference” between the existing 25% design and CRC recommendations. Now waiting for state response, to see if acceptable language can be crafted that is acceptable to all state agencies.
- CRC agreed to hold off submitting the CR to the state at this time, in hopes of submitting a revised CR that satisfies all later this year.
- Land purchased with CPC funds must have a CR. No known precedent for how long after purchase it can stand without CR in place.
- Alternate 15% design will be available for review before the 25% hearing, date TBD.

- Ms. Siska urged the committee to start looking at the Montourri parking option. If we are able to move forward with this it could be favorable for the ARRT TIP process. General agreement that avoiding parking on the “cart path” is desirable but unclear if State will find that acceptable.
- There is a lack of clarity re: jurisdiction: where the DOT/rail trail responsibility stops/starts and where MBTA responsibility stops/starts regarding the juncture of the south side station and the rail trail terminus and crossing of Maple Street.
- Traffic calming measures will be needed and were included in the 25% design.
- Sidewalks on both sides of Maple Street may be needed. Ms. Cochrane noted that the SC does not do crosswalks.
- Agreed that SATSAC will engage in promoting a Montourri parking solution.
- Mr. Kelleher will keep the SATSAC informed.

9. Vice Chair & Clerk

- Ms. Siska would like to pass these responsibilities to another member and focus on other areas.
- No volunteers came forward.
- Mr. Martin will ask whether Mr. Campbell would be interested/willing.

10. Future Meetings, Calendar

- Technical setup currently prevents meeting held at the Senior Center from being on the town calendar. Mr. Martin raises the concern that people cannot find our meetings and wants to make sure we go beyond our legal obligation so those interested can attend.
- However, the Senior Center meeting location has been very favorable to many members.
- IT is trying to revamp the system in the next few months but it may not be so easily resolved; involves multiple calendars and multiple locations.
- Ms.Siska and Ms. Clifford would like meetings to be on the town calendar
- For now, we will keep these meetings at same location with scheduling posted on SATSAC web page for now (Martin will post.)
- Committee will revisit as construction nears.
- Thursdays are easier to get town hall rooms so scheduling should not be a problem.
- Suggested that we also note station project information and our meetings in the Municipal Quarterly bulletin that goes out with tax bills. COA puts this together; Mr. York will investigate.
- Mr. Sonner, as liason, will attend one meeting per quarter (not July 2012) but offers to attend more frequently as construction starts. Mr. Martin will request liason attendance as needed.
- Request that meeting notifications include a notice if a significant vote is anticipated. Mr. Martin will include a draft agenda when he queries the committee members about expected attendance.
- Upcoming SATSAC Committee Meetings:
 - July 19
 - August 16
 - September 6
 - + every 3 weeks after that
- Other significant dates:
 - August date(s) TBD – flyer distribution at station
 - September 16 – ABFM table
 - October 1 - Iron Work Farm Jones Tavern Open House
 - October 8 - Oktoberfest
 - TBD – Groundbreaking ceremony

11. Adjourn

Ms. Moran moved to adjourn. Ms. Siska seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 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 is the MBTA site about the project.

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