



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 23 October 2019

7:30 PM

Acton Town Hall, Rm 121, 472 Main St.

Present: Franny Osman (Chair), R Luke Evans, Paula Walsh

Absent: James Citro, James Yarin

Opening

Franny Osman (Chair) opened the meeting at 7:46 PM

I. Regular Business

1. Announcements – None
2. Citizens' Concerns – Concern was expressed over the timeline of adding sidewalks along Harris Street. At a meeting with a condo board, the town engineer had stated it could take up to five years to obtain the necessary legal easements to complete the project.
3. Board of Selectmen Update – None (Joan Gardner was unable to attend)
4. Approval of Minutes – Approval of 9-26 minutes is postponed until next meeting.
5. CrossTown Connect and Acton Transportation Program Updates – Austin Cyganiewicz (See attached update)

Regarding the CAT route, which is a one-way loop, Luke inquired if the shuttle could follow the route in one direction and then reverse course in the other direction, alternating back and forth throughout the day. Shopping trips could be accomplished in one hour instead of two, perhaps attracting more riders. In this way any route modifications can be kept to a minimum.

Paula discussed having CVS added as a stop (at Main St & Great Road) since the shuttle passes by and egress into the parking area is feasible with a traffic signal present. She also suggested including Trader Joe's given its need and ease of access.

6. Sidewalk Update – Franny asked members to read the sidewalk committee materials sent by Cameren Cousins (Sep 12) before the next meeting so that TAC can prioritize its actions.

II. New/Special Business

1. Bicycling and Sidewalk Issues – Already discussed above.
2. Train Station Maple St. Property Discussion – Franny believes a discussion is needed regarding the possible future use of the Gordon Richards buildings on the property recently purchased by the Town adjacent to the train station. Luke, also a member of SATSAC, stated this is also an agenda item for this committee.

In addition, Luke said any use of these buildings, such as for restrooms, selling beverages and snacks, etc., might be coordinated with the Assabet River Rail Trail as any successful retail operation would need a requisite amount of traffic to sustain its operation. Morning and evening traffic alone might not be sufficient.

Discussion also included the possibility of creating pedestrian access to the South Station from Martin St along the tracks, a more direct route than walking along Central St to the parking lot where crossing the street is unsafe.
3. Making the Connections Community Compact Grant with Sudbury and Metropolitan Area Planning Council “MAGIC” Sub-Region – Covered by Austin’s update.
4. Community Transit Grant Application – Covered by Austin’s update.
5. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Workforce Transportation Grant Application – Covered by Austin’s update.
6. Conversation with Acton Medical Associates Suggestion – Franny thought that this medical facility on Main St might consider becoming a member of CrossTown Connect to arrange patient transportation to and from the facility.
7. “Adopt-a-sidewalk” Shoveling Program Idea – Concerns have been raised about clearing sidewalks during winter snow storms. Some have suggested an “Adopt-a-Sidewalk program. Discussion also included less formal approaches such as programs encouraging homeowners to assist in front of their homes, such as after a plow passes to clear what the plow might have left behind to prevent ice from forming on the walk.
8. Kendall Square Transportation Suggestion – It’s been brought to chair’s attention to seek opportunities to create transportation from Acton to Kendall Square since many Acton residents work there. Some have suggested that Yankee Bus line might be an option.

III. Closing Items

1. Future Meetings and Calendar Events

Next meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday, November 20. This month the fourth Wednesday falls on Thanksgiving, hence the change.

2. Adjournment

At 9:29 PM, Franny Osman moved to adjourn, Paula Walsh seconded. Members voted and motion passed unanimously.