

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2019

7:30 pm

Acton Town Hall, Room 124, 472 Main Street, Acton

Present: Luke Evans, Jim Yarin and Paula Walsh

Selectmen Present: Joan Gardner

Absent: Franny Osman (Chair) and Jim Citro

Also present: Austin Cyganiewicz (Director of Intergovernmental Affairs), Peter Duran, Acton resident and Julia Day (pending new member to TAC)

1. Opening

Facilitator Luke Evans opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the TAC July 25, 2019 were tables until the next TAC Meeting as there was not a quorum of sworn in members who were also present at the July meeting.
- B. Board of Selectmen Chair and Liaison Joan Gardner updated the committee on the following:
 1. Sidewalk Committee will be incorporated into TAC as per Board of Selectmen decision. Ms. Osman will meet with the Sidewalk Committee Chair, several members of the Board of Selectmen and staff members in September 9, 2019 to learn the current sidewalk process.
 2. Ms Gardner referenced highlighted maps of the town to identify current sidewalk proposals and areas of growth within the town.
 3. Ms. Gardner related a concern by the Acton Nursing for the need of wheelchair accessible transportation after normal business hours. Mr. Cyganiewicz was able to give some feedback on this matter; although not currently subsidized by Acton, both Lyft and Uber do have an option to request wheelchair accessible vehicles although he will need to investigate if the program is available in the Acton area.
- C. Austin Cyganiewicz updated the committee on the following:
 1. Crosstown Connect (CTC) had some confusion when marked vans were being serviced and had to be substituted with unmarked vans. Mr. Cyganiewicz will explore the possibility of having magnetic signage that can be applied to vans when this occurs.
 2. Cross Town Connect (CTC) has again applied for Workforce Transit Grant.

3. The Maynard-Acton Shuttle has been very well utilized and an additional \$100,000 earmarked budget has been secured by State Representative Kate Hogan.
4. Identification signs for stops along the Crosstown Acton Transportation (CAT) Route have been made and are ready for installation along with smaller signs containing QR Codes for the CAT schedule and tracker programs. The tracker program did not work when the temporary vans were in use according to Mr. Yarin who travelled the CAT during that period. Mr. Cyganiewicz will investigate that issue with CTC.
5. Carlisle donated a vehicle in exchange for entry into the CTC program, however, the vehicle is older and not a viable option for a backup vehicle.
6. A long term dispatcher is leaving, however, there will continue to be two full time dispatchers. TAC recommends that dispatchers have an on site orientation to acquaint them with the traffic patterns and nuances of the Acton roadways.
7. Grant funding for bus shelters is being researched.
8. A review of the possibility of extending the current CAT route along Great Roadis still under review.
9. Mr. Cyganiewicz assured the committee that he will investigate Mr. Yarin expressed concern that the CAT drivers do not currently make flag down stops along their route due to concerns it would interfere with their timetable.. This contrasts with Scott Zadakis (Executive Director of CrossTown Connect) who previously stated this was the policy provided it was safe to stop.

D. Citizens Concerns:

1. Transportation lacking for rides home after the Community Supper on Wednesdays at the Mount Calvary Church on Massachusetts Ave, Acton which ends at 6 pm. Mr. Cyganiewicz responded that there currently is a special bus service to a local Asian market which is also run on Wednesdays and service to the Community Supper may conflict with that established route but he will investigate options.
2. Despite agreements with Mr. Zadakis to allow late afternoon Dial-a-Ride Tripp's from the Senior Center and the subsequent advertisement of the service in the Senior Center Newsletters, seniors have been denied service on a number of occasions. Intervention by Ms. Walsh in encouraging the dispatchers to discuss the agreement with Mr. Zadakis did secure transportation in several occasions but a recurrence if denials occurred several more times in August 2019. Mr. Cyganiewicz will investigate.

3. New/Special Business

1. Mr. Cyganiewicz discussed the current utilization of the Zagster bike stations. Although the South Acton Train Station bikes are utilized to go to West Acton, the West Acton bikes do not get used very often so it may be that these bikes should be relocated to another site. Several options were discussed but no final decision made.
2. Mr. Cyganiewicz announced that effective today, August 28, 2019 that the CAT would be free of charge. A variety of community information methods will be used to promote the service and the elimination of fees.
3. Methods of how to gather additional data about the current use of the van service as well as anticipated future service needs were discussed. A proposal to have surveys included with the town census, at Town Meetings and in public events around town were discussed.
4. There were concerns that the current data being collected by TransAction may not include those trips that were never scheduled due to refusals by the dispatchers. Tracking of refusals to book will be conducted by Ms Walsh and other concerned citizens (Mr. Duran) and used in determining needs.
5. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 26, 2018 at 1 pm at Acton Senior and Social Services Center. It will coincide with the Acton Senior Center Open House.

4. Adjournment

At 9:40 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.