

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2021
5:45 pm
Via Zoom

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

Absent: Julia Day, Jim Citro

Also present: Nirupama Valankar, Council on Aging Liaison, invited,

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 5:53 pm.

2. Regular Business

- a. Meeting minutes from the March 24, 2021, were unanimously approved with edits.
- b. No Board of Selectmen updates
- c. Ms. Valankar: The developer for the proposed project at 67 Powdermill Road has pulled out of the project.
- d. Transportation Advisory Committee Membership: Jim Citro after 15 years on the committee has decided to not renew when his term ends.
- e. Resident asked about any updates for the Taylor Road sidewalk. Ms. Osman was able to share that the one outstanding home owner had signed the necessary paperwork. There will be a vote at the upcoming Town Meeting on June 21, 2021. The Town Warrant was not immediately available during this meeting for review so review of the warrant will be added to the next TAC agenda which will be scheduled for the Wednesday prior to the Town Meeting. Ms Walsh proposed that Ms. Osman represent TAC at the Town Meeting and present TAC's recommendations on the item. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Evans and the vote was unanimous.

3. New/Special Business:

a. Ms. Osman: Now that things are opening up, via social media, residents have been asking about resumption of the CAT (Cross Acton Transit Service).

b. There was discussion about whether there could be an expanded loop around town using the CAT and the Rail Shuttle coordinated with the new hourly train service schedule and at the same time increasing the stops available throughout town. This topic will be added to the next TAC agenda for further discussion.

c. As discussed in the March 24, 2021 TAC meeting, the town has received a \$30,000 grant from Massachusetts Development/Metropolitan Area Planning Council to incorporate taxi services for after-hours trips. Ms. Osman stated that a portion of the funds was successfully used for Covid vaccination rides as previously recommended by TAC.

Nelson/Nygaard has been hired by MAPC to organize the implementation of the full program details of which will be released to the public as soon as available. The company is asking that addition data collection on each town's needs. Ms. Walsh asked if the requested research would drain any significant funds from the \$30,000 that could otherwise be used for services. Whereas, Ms. Osman offered that the state will be supplementing the funds by an additional \$25,000 so the impact on services will be minimized.

d. The goal for all transportation services will be a more robust, new and improved post-pandemic service. The public's input will be helpful in determining which services are most needed by the town and this focus will be fully discussed at the next TAC meeting.

e. Sidewalks: Corey York sent TAC a preliminary plan for the Hayward Road/Main Street renovation and asked for input. There was unanimous agreement that the speed limit in that area of Main Street be reduced. There was some confusion about the locations of sidewalks and crosswalks and the committee appointed Ms. Walsh to ask the Planning Department for clarification, the Engineering and Town Manager's offices will be cc'd on the request.

f. Bicycle Updates:

1. The development of a guide to amenities currently available along the Freeman Bike Trail was felt by the committee to be potentially of benefit to pedestrians, bikers and to businesses along the route.

2. Mr. Evans will contact the planning department, specifically Matthew Selby, who has been most involved with the bike trail to find out if such a guide has already been started.

g. MassDOT has requested data on who would potentially use services in the Framingham to Lowell sector to see if there is an unmet need in this region. Ms. Osman suggested that employment related needs may be the most likely need and it was hoped that some of the data collected for Nelson/Nygaard could also be used for this purpose.

h. Due to the need for TAC to review warrant articles in advance of the Town Meeting, the next TAC meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday June 16, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

4. Adjournment

Ms. Walsh moved to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded by Ms. Osman, Unanimously approved.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm

Acronyms:

ADA= Americans with Disability 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

NRG=Nashoba Regional Greenways Coalition

SATSAC= South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

TAC= Transportation Advisory Committee