



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
SEPTEMBER 29, 2021
7:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

Absent: Julia Day

Invited guests: Austin Cyganiwicz, Nirupana Velankar

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the Transportation Advisory Committee July 28, 2021 and August 18, 2021 meetings were reviewed and approved by a vote of 3-0.
- B. Select Board Update: None
- C. Acton has signed the Making the Connections Unmet Needs Intermunicipal Agreement.
 - a. The Select Board will appoint a person to the steering committee
 - b. Nelson-Nygard wants to meet with the point person
 - c. Enrollment into the taxi program will either be with Austin's office or Laura Ducharme's (Social Services) office.
 - d. Rides with Joanne is the only contract for the taxi program at this time.
- D. Austin Cyganiwicz updates:
 - a. There are currently 3 curb to curb buses. The goal is to get back to full service but there are issues with driver shortages. TransAction has increased payrate and is offering additional incentives to counter the shortage. Prompted by a question from the community, Austin added that the driver pool already included staff that cover for driver vacations and he is hopeful that drivers from the next School Bus company can be utilized to help with the driver shortage for the van services.
 - b. The CAT will be adding stops, particularly along 2A (Trader Joe's Plaza)
 - c. We need one more vehicle to reduce the loop, possibly using one of the train or curb to curb vans.
 - d. There have been dispatch challenges. Since they are not physically in town, it is difficult for them to keep a check on dispatch. Veteran dispatcher, Tim, was recently promoted thus, Nancy and Dee are our current dispatchers. If anyone experiences issues with dispatch, they should contact Austin and he'll work with TransAction to fix the issues.
 - e. Food Pantry trips are scheduled for the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays of the month and Market Basket trips are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.



Regularly scheduled pickups will occur at Sachem Way and Windsor Green. People in other areas of town can call dispatch to schedule pick ups directly from their homes.

- f. The Covid related capacity limits for the vans has been lifted.
- g. All van riders must be masked.
- E. Sidewalks: The committee is hoping to make progress by adding funds as well as re-evaluation of the list.
- F. Adaptive bikes: Almost ready, the town is waiting for one more bike.
- G. Community Connections Program: Acton has received a \$20,000 grant from the Boston MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) for improvement to Parking Management Solutions (the Daily parking kiosk technology) for better systems that would improve the parking payment systems near the train station.
- H. Consistent monitoring: the town will improve monitoring of projects by using the MPO method of scoring projects.
- I. TAC unanimously voted to send a note to the Select Board in support of the acquisition of two electric vehicles and \$150,000 per year for more effective services.

3. New/Special Business

- A. Luke suggest that at the next meeting TAC consider changing the name of the Committee to Public Transportation Committee as well as reviewing its Mission Statement given all the additions tasked to it by the Select Board in the past couple of years.
- B. Franny suggested TAC hold a public discussion meeting focused on obtaining input on transportation. A date and time will be determined.

A motion to close the hearing was made by Paula and seconded by Franny and approved by a vote of 3-0, The meeting closed at 9:12 p.m.