

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2022

12:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Franny Osman (Chair), Rama Balakrishna, Paula Walsh.

Absent: There are currently two open positions on the committee

Select Board Representative: Not Present

Invited guests: Zhengyu Huang- Potential new member of TAC; Qin Rui Pang- Town Engineer; Nirupana Velankar-Council of Aging Liason

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –There are no minutes for the scheduled June 2022 meeting as a quorum was not met and meeting could not be held. Approval of minutes was tabled.
- B. Announcements:
 - a. Copies of the Sidewalk plans for the town have been made available for members of TAC including Nirupana Velankar, the COA Liason and can be picked up from Kristen Alexander in the Engineering Department at the Town Hall.
- C. Select Board Update:
 - a. None available at this time.
- D. Sidewalks:
 - a. Town Engineer, Qin Rui Pang shared the following information:
 - i. The Sidewalk Priority List hasn't changed, that is up to TAC to make any changes to the list.
 - ii. High Street project has finally started this week after the last three owners gave permission in early Spring 2022. A Structural Engineer was consulted regarding the structural wall. We are on the Eversource que for moving poles.
 - iii. Taylor Road: Sidewalk at the school is done. She does not anticipate finishing in 2022 although School to Barker Ave will be completed with School to Minot completed in 2023.
 - iv. School Street and River Street: There have been a few issues with the Church, a sidewall and the 1 River Street resident. Barricades will help temporarily in protecting bikers and pedestrians. A third party consultant is needed for creating a sidewalk at the bridge by Parker Street.

- v. Great Road: the Department of Transportation keeps asking for additional questions to be answered before signing off on the project.
 - vi. Acton Center: Bids have been reviewed and this project should start soon.
 - vii. Stow and Robbins: Not able to just install cement blocks for pedestrians due to cost, aesthetics and only a temporary solution at best so not an ideal way to solve the issue. There is a twenty two foot minimum for two way traffic.
 - viii. Parker Street: Design is done but train crossing is an issue so an analysis is being done.
 - ix. Concord Road: Maybe possible to request a sign or light for that crosswalk.
 - b. Franny Osman: has suggested that the previous sidewalk committee members be invited to attend a future TAC meeting to discuss their methodology in creating the current sidewalk prioritization list.
- E. Update from Austin Cyganiwicz were shared by Chair Franny Osman:
- a. Vans: A new driver has been hired, so the town is now operating 3 vans in addition to the Cross Acton Transportation (CAT) van.
 - b. The Flagging rules and the CAT schedule still need further evaluation so Franny suggests that Karen Dumaine, Manager at Cross Town Connect be invited to a future meeting. Franny also recommends that anyone able to ride the CAT before the next meeting may be able to share their observations about the service.
- F. Nascent Uber Program:
- a. The Town of Acton is getting closer to signing the municipal agreement for the program aimed at addressing unmet transportation needs using microtransit. The Making the Connection Pilot funds will help get this program established. Some communities within the pilot program have already signed the agreement, Acton is trying to get the agreement signed.
 - b. A new logo called “Go Acton” will be created, based on similar logos in other towns.
 - c. Nelson/Nygard Company has hired a program manager.
 - d. Data from the program from other towns can be reviewed at the next meeting.
 - e. There are additional applications for funding for the Making the Connections program that need to be completed by the town.
 - f. There is one company (Annex) that already does paratransit transportation and Acton has come to an agreement with them.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Franny Osman and seconded by Paula Walsh and approved unanimously, The meeting ended at 1:30 p.m.

Attachments: None

Acronyms:

ADA= Americans with Disability Act

ARPA= American [COVID-19] Recovery Program 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