

Acton Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Minutes , February 10, 1016

Meeting starts at 7:46 pm

Present:

Franny Osman

Bengt Muten

Randall Bashta

Jim Citro

Aneil Tripathy

Membership Changes:

Bengt: Mike Fischer has left the committee, Randall has joined the transportation committee.

Officer Elections:

Bengt says he is too distracted to be chair, so is hoping for someone to take over.

Franny: When you are the chair the most important thing is to get the agenda out on time.

Bengt: You also have to answer the mail

The decision to choose a new chair will be decided in June.

We will wait for June.

Meeting Schedule:

Members will be gone in May. The fourth Wednesday of the month is good for all members in attendance. The fourth Wednesday of April, June, August, and October will be future meeting days.

April 27th, June 22nd, August 24th, and October 26th.

Town Website

The website should be updated to say that we meet on Wednesdays. Jim will contact town hall to make this change.

Update on Fixed Route Bus

Bengt: Doug could not make this meeting.

Jim: With the fixed route, wasn't Kelly's Corner on it?

Franny tells story about the shuttle running late to pick up members of the Council on Aging. However bad the current route may be we need to keep the route secure. There are many things that we could change with the fixed route, but we have to test out something.

Maynard is working on getting a fixed route going. Both Acton's and Maynard's shuttle schedules should be connected. We should look at it more in six months, to revise the schedule.

Franny thinks that the shuttle should go into the public schools, people take the shuttle when they see it. Where will people be who will wait for the shuttle?

Bengt thinks that we could have an expiration date on each schedule, have a message that states check online for changes.

Jim Citro: Jim questioned the route.

Franny: The most important part of the route was having it run for an hour.

Bengt: the old train schedule used to run on every half hour.

Franny: East Acton could be another location for the bus, where Staples and Trader Joe's are. Parker Street housing, We should work to get people to the train station.

Bengt: When the rail shuttle starts out in the morning the route should be followed to West Acton.

Jim: If you are on the town of Acton website you have CAT, the fixed route, Roadrunner, the Council of Aging van, all these transit systems should be on the transportation committee website.

Bengt: We need the driver of the rail shuttle to start a half an hour earlier

Franny: We have Patricia, a regular rail shuttle driver who everyone loves, but she couldn't start a half an hour earlier.

The lunchbreak occurs at 1:09 pm. Franny will suggest to Doug that the rail shuttle should start a bit earlier. Bengt thinks that if this would need a new driver though it is not worth it.

Wheelchair Lift for Fixed Route Bus

The handicapped committee would like there to be a lift on the fixed route bus. Bengt states that as long as you have an accessible van that runs at the same time it is fine to have a van without a wheelchair lift. Doug says that there is a plan to implement a wheelchair lift on July 1st. It was an oversight that we didn't get the wheelchair lift before.

Acton funds the shuttle through LRTA, they support half of the program, \$70,000. The rail shuttle is mostly being paid by the parking meters in South Acton.

We will put parking meters on the next agenda. Randall will message Cory about the town's new meter plan. We had talked about metering the whole thing, instead of having a resident rate. Randall will send to the committee his correspondence.

Bengt: was there anything else we should say about the fixed bus?

Aneil: I sent a survey around my neighborhood near Nara and many people expressed interest.

Bengt: We need to find out where people who aren't taking the shuttle would want to take it.

Franny: Do we have any PR suggestions for CrossTown Connect?

There is little funding for publicity, how can we promote the shuttle? We need a packet of schedules and an intro letter.

Bengt: we should have numbers on our bus routes so that we may appear on google.

We should make numbers and get on google transit. We need to make everything easily searchable for the transit information. Right now Doug is paid to be the transportation coordinator two days a week. We have volunteers that are willing to redesign our brochures.

Cross-Acton Transit is the fixed route bus; CrossTown Connect is a regional transportation management association. For municipalities and businesses, they set up shuttles. We should find out how many people use our transportation services to get to Concord.

We reviewed the Cross-Acton Transit Progress Report.

Kelley's Corner

At the Kelley's Corner meeting, they shared the plan, and it will be up for getting money to move ahead with the design at town meeting. People were wondering where the bike trails will be? There are also too many left turn lanes. We have conflicting desires, we want to move people through the area but also make it walkable, so we need to slow people down. They are putting in left turn lanes at the school turn in. Kelley's Corner also has problems with public parking. This committee should give a vote of support of the Kelley's Corner plan, this would help. Kelley's Corner is going to have a new restaurant, 110 Grille. The committee should study Kelley's Corner plan more.

The Transportation Committee will meet on the 23rd of March to discuss Kelley's Corner.

Bike Trails

Because everyone was talking about bike trails during Kelley's Corner debate, should we become the bicycling committee? Maybe we have too many services to try to keep track of. There might be a lot of people who would be very passionate about cycling to form a bicycle committee. Transportation as different from cycling? Our transit systems have really grown. Have the focus be on public transit.

Have Sidewalk, TAC, Railtrails, and South Acton train station committees come together to discuss a bicycle committee.

Update on Transportation Work

Franny is currently a rider representative for Acton for the LRTA. Tomorrow is the next CTC meeting at the Maynard Country Club, which is the Maynard Council on Aging. At the last RCC meeting there was a discussion of the Westborough fixed bus route. LRTA is looking at creating an extension to Littleton train station. Littleton is not in LRTA.

The Fitchburg Rail schedule came out, the committee approves Scott Zadakis's letter of feedback to MBTA.

If anyone has any ideas on how to build capacity at South Station, let Franny know. The Volpe Center. On April 12th at the Half Moon hill common house, Michael Dukakis is coming.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.