



SOUTH ACTON TRAIN STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 20 June 2019

7:30 PM

Acton Town Hall, Room 126, 472 Main Street

Present: Michaela Moran (Vice Chairperson), R Luke Evans, Dave Wellinghoff

Absent: Amanda Steinberg

Opening

Vice Chairperson, Michaela Moran, opened the meeting at 7:33 PM

I. Regular Business

1. Comments from the Public – None
2. Notes from Chairperson – None
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – None

II. Special Business

4. Election of Chairperson

Luke Evans moved to elect Michaela Moran as Chairperson. Dave Wellinghoff seconded. Motion passed 2-0, with one abstention (Michaela Moran).

5. Parking Study – Update on Presentation, Progress

Committee members expressed some impressions regarding the Parking Study public forum on May 28th. Some presented information was important but members did not come away with a view that much was particularly useful. Also some members felt that the presenters were pushing particular points of view rather than providing a more objective analysis.

Moreover, during the presentation it was revealed that parking lot utilization data were collected from only one day's observation. Accordingly Luke Evans expressed his concern that these data lacked any reliability for generalization beyond this one day. Thus he disregarded all general presentation points which relied upon these data.

Most useful information tended to come from members of the public. Overall, the most important point gleaned from the presentation was that convenience parking should cost more than inconvenience parking, which is currently not the case.

6. Reserved Parking Rates – Discussion of Planned Lottery System

In light of convenience/inconvenience pricing points, discussion focused on pricing of Maple St reserve parking and that it should be higher than that at Jones Field.

Also discussed were the merits awarding open spots to those on the waiting list: first-come, first-served versus a lottery system. There was consensus the lottery system would better serve those waiting for an opening; those persons who already had a spot would continue holding their spots as long as needed. That said, discussion also included the possibility that rental time periods might be limited at some point to two or three years so those waiting for an opening do not feel they are being shutout in perpetuity.

7. Recommendations for Changes to Parking System and Rates

Michaela Moran made a motion to authorize the chairperson to write a memo of recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that:

SATSAC recommends changing parking lot rates for the upcoming year in order to incentivize parking remotely. We recommend decreasing rates in remote lots and raising rates in nearby lots, as follows:

Reduce Remote Parking and Station Transportation to a flat rate of \$1/day.

Increase the Daily Parking Rate from \$5 to \$6-7/day (R= \$6-7)

Set monthly rate for reserved spots at Jones Field to be commensurate with the Daily Parking Rate: \$120-140 (R x 20 work days per month)

Set monthly rate for premium reserved spots at Maple Street based on the Daily Parking Rate: \$180-210 (R x 30)

Raise Annual Resident Sticker from \$100/ year (42¢ per day, 240 work days per year) to \$200/year (83¢ per day, 240 work days per year).

Lottery for open spaces, commuter keeps spaces once attained.

Luke Evans seconded the motion.

Considerable discussion centered on the extremely low daily rate of the annual sticker. During the public form, the possibility was raised to eventually eliminate the annual sticker in favor of a daily rate for all parking in the main parking lot, a consideration SATSAC is presently evaluating for the near future.

Members voted and motion passed unanimously.

8. Town Projects Update: Traffic Study, Crosswalks, Charging Spaces, etc.

Cory York, Director of Public Works, stated the traffic study is expected quite soon. Charging stations are now ready to go into operation. Pricing is expected to be the Daily Parking Rate for two (2) stations and an Annual Acton Sticker for the other two (2).

III. Closing Items

9. Future Meetings

Next meeting date was set tentatively for Thursday, July 18.

10. Calendar Events – None

Adjournment

At 9:42 PM, Dave Wellinghoff moved to adjourn. Luke Evans seconded. Members voted and motion passed unanimously.

The listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can and include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow advance notice. Send an e-mail to manager@actonma.gov or call Town Manager's Office (978)929-6611

For more information about SATSAC contact satsac@acton-ma.gov