

## **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2020

7:30 pm

Via Zoom

**Present:** Franny Osman (Chair), Jim Citro, and Paula Walsh

**Selectmen Present:** Board of Selectman Elect James Snyder-Grant

**Absent:** Jim Yarin, Luke Evans and Julia Day

Also present: Austin Cyganiewicz (Intergovernmental Representative for the Town of Acton), Claire Siska, invited

### **1. Opening**

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

### **2. Regular Business**

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the TAC February 26, 2020 and May 27, 2020 meetings were approved with edits.

B. Board of Selectmen Elect Jim Snyder-Grant: .

1. Introduced himself to the committee
2. A video of Dean Charter describing the sidewalk prioritization was played.

C. Citizens Concerns:

1. Claire Siska: TAC received a letter from Ms Siska earlier in the day which she referenced during her comments with TAC, highlighting the Board of Selectmen's mention of the Shared Streets and Spaces Emergency Grant Program during their meeting on June 22, 2020. Ms. Siska questioned if the grant could be applied for and funds used to address traffic issues and pedestrian safety in the South Acton train station area.
2. Franny Osman (chair) responded to Ms Siska. Many of the places mentioned in her letter have been discussed by TAC and community members in the past. However, although some aspects of the area of concern have been deemed Tier 1 (priority), the prioritization of sidewalks must undergo additional review in conjunction with other requests and proposals, given the many expansions in parts of town since the list was first created. Since sidewalks only recently became a part of the TAC missive, it has been a process that is ongoing to gain clarity. Franny also assured Ms Siska that her concerns and suggestions will be forwarded to the Town Manager and to the Department of Public Works.
3. Taylor Road- An email from a Taylor Road resident, David Taylor was read to TAC in which Mr Specter expressed concern about a number of near miss

accidents on the road and whether there was a plan for a sidewalk in the area. After assurances by Franny Osman that TAC would review the prioritization list and respond at a later date, he emailed a second time that a different department when answering his inquiries about tree trimming was informed by an engineer working with the town that the trees in question were scheduled to be evaluated as part of the upcoming sidewalk project so he felt he had his questions answered at this time.

### **3. New/Special Business**

- A. Fanny Osman updated the committee on the following:
  - 1. She suggested creating a to-do list and assigning follow up tasks to each TAC member when action items are agreed upon during the meetings.
  - 2. Landline meeting: A growing number of communities are joining the meetings to discuss bike trails. Most recently they discussed the uniform location of signage. The Landline group suggested that the town consider paving the pathway that joins NARA Park to the Nagog complex. According to Jim Snyder-Grant, this is conservation land so Franny motioned that TAC ask the Stewardship Committee, Conservation Committee and Board of Selectmen to review the option. The motion was seconded by Paula Walsh and the proposal unanimously passed.
  - 3. Jim Snyder-Grant also attended the Landline Meeting and informed the network that he evaluated a section of the Grace property that is currently best suited for mountain biking, however, if paved could be more accessible for regular bikes. The path is owned by Grace but is not part of the contamination but does have conservation issues to be considered. The idea of the group is to find funds for the paving.
  - 4. Jim Snyder-Grant asked whether when we request that a sidewalk proposal be reviewed that it also be reviewed to make it bike friendly.
- B. Austin Cyganiewicz updated the Committee on the following:
  - 1. Crosstown Connect: Guidance is being taken from the State and the MBTA as to how we can bring back our services. The vendor has been asked to loosen up on what is considered essential.
  - 2. An RFP has been issued for a new vendor. Nearly a dozen companies have made inquiries about the RFP, some companies are interested in supplying in some aspect of the RFP while others are interested in supplying both vans and dispatch services. Applications will be accepted until 7/1/2020, with the goal of making a decision by mid-July as service would begin on 8/1/2020.
  - 3. Similar to previous Town Meetings, there will be a van available for the June 29, 2020 meeting. However, reservations for the van must be made by Friday, June 26 so that appropriate vans and necessary cleaning can be insured.
  - 4. Zagster has informed the town that they will be going out of business. Therefore, the town is looking for a new rental bike vendor.
  - 5. Making Connections Pilot- Lyft is asking for additional time to begin the program.
  - 6. The application to MAPC for the Mass Development grant was submitted on June 12<sup>th</sup> and the town expects to hear soon if approved.

7. Technical Review Team is seeking a volunteer from TAC to help with application reviews. Franny volunteered.
8. Discussions will be conducted in the near future with the Acton -Boxborough Regional School District for a potential option to collaborate with the schools for drivers and/or dispatch resources.
9. The municipal agreement with CrossTown Connect ends in October when a new RFP will be submitted.

#### **4. Adjournment**

At 9:03 p.m., it was moved by Paula Walsh and seconded Franny Osman to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously.