

## Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2020

7:30 pm

Via Zoom

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

**Selectmen Present:** Board of Selectmen member David Martin

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

Also present: Austin Cyganiewicz (Intergovernmental Representative for the Town of Acton), Claire Siska, invited, Nirupamer Valankar, Council of Aging Board Representative, invited

### 1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

### 2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Delay until next meeting.

B. Board of Selectmen: David Martin

1. No updates

C. Regular Business:

1. Citizens Concerns:

a. Claire Siska: The drive for the Smart Street Grant Program is being led by Corey York. Sidewalks are not considered part of the Grant, however, betterments, crosswalks, safety of the rail trails and train station may be within the Grant guidelines. Jim Citro will be the TAC member to contact Corey and find out if TAC can help in any way.

b. Claire Siska-Dog Park update: Board of Selectmen and Disability Council support the establishment of a Dog Park. Isaac Davis Way owners have easement rights and object to the park and previously had not been ready to engage. Matt Post now represents the residents and has agreed to meet with Joan Gardner from the Board of Selectmen. Not clear if their concerns will impact the AHA project. The Board of Selectmen have approved the pre-planning to do percolation testing to locate potential septic system sites.

Bumper stickers to support the project are for sale.

2. Administration: Need to verify the email system is including all committee members. Member Luke Evans has not responded to Committee messages. Julia Day will be taking several months off after having a new baby.

3. Crosstown Connect and Acton Transportation Update: RFP for operation of CTC and Acton Transportation has been put out. The current provider

is Action Unlimited. Only one of two complete applications met the criteria but review by a technical review committee is still underway so no announcement is being made yet.

4. TransAction/Municipal Agreement ends in October so there is the potential of a new vendor for this agreement as well.
5. Community Transit Grant-Due to Covid, the funding for the Dispatch Center was delayed. Although the town was approved for 2020, the funds were not received until after the fiscal year closed. Despite this, Concierge Services have been approved for the calendar year, January to December 2020.
6. MAPC:
  - a. \$56,000 Regional Grant Application to four communities for Lyft and Taxi Services. Funding for the Workforce Application was not approved however, they did make recommendations and supplied additional information for potential usage. Another application deadline will be this coming Fall.
  - b. Microtransit Partnering with other towns and the 2021 FY budget: Acton has a line item to allow us to get started and will allow us to gain data for the next application.
7. Managers Notes:
  - a. Collectors office: Window service is open Monday through Thursday 10 am to Noon
  - b. Water District: Manager will be on Java with John on Friday, 7/24/2020 at 10 am.
  - c. State primary-September 1, 2020, there will be a single voting precinct at the RJ Gray Middle School.
  - d. Board of Selectmen established long and short term goals which are available on the town website.

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

#### **A. Franny Osman provided the following:**

1. People are not sure how to access services. When asked about ridership, Scott from TransAction stated there was increased ridership for the On Demand vans and no current plans to implement taxis. Laura Ducharme (Acton Social Services) had been asked for input and reported they generally didn't get involved with transportation issues unless there was a challenging situation. She has worked with Neighborhood Brigade who have dropped off food to people although this was only because of the current Covid situation, not a usual service.

#### **B. Austin Cyganiewicz provided the following:**

1. Schools: Safe School Route Program
2. Austin asked for suggestions of Social Media sites to increase awareness for the transportation services. Several Facebook groups catering to local community were suggested as was a recommendation by David for a Java with John announcement.

- C. David Martin updated the committee on the following:
- a. He had met recently with some students of color and State Senator Jamie Eldridge. Some of the students in town voiced concerns about the difficulties they have had participating in non-school activities due to lack of transportation.
  - b. Due to Covid, David is not sure how their needs can be met at present and this may not be an issue this Fall. He had reached out to the School Committee but they are busy with attempting to plan for the school year opening and not sure of athletics this year.
  - c. Franny did make note that transportation services are already available but according to David, the students did not feel the current services were sufficient. Not sure if additional or semi-standard times were needed. Another constraint for some may be cost. Paula suggested a punch card system where applicants could be provided a financial hardship rate yet not be seen as any different from other riders.
- D. Sidewalks: David requested that the committee reevaluate the current list which was created more than a decade ago, mentioned an 8 year old email stating a street was second on the list then but still doesn't have a sidewalk. The evaluation system used a decade ago may no longer be valid. Franny will resend the list to the committee for re-review.

#### **4. Adjournment**

At 8:54 pm, it was moved by Paula Walsh and seconded Jim to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.