

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting--June 2, 2010

Meeting commenced at 7:40 pm

Attendees: Franny Osman, Jim Citro, Bengt Muten, Michael Fisher, Mike Gowing (BOS Liaison)

Guest: Nancy Anne Shaw

Discussion of previous meeting minutes

What days did we have meetings in 2010? –12/16, 1/14, 1/28, 2/25, 4/29, 6/2

Use DocuShare on the web site to check which minutes have been submitted

Minutes should be sent to manager and clerk at acton.mass.gov

Minutes are posted for following dates:

1/2/08

3/08

4/08

9/09

Report of Transaction Associates Progress over Last Few Weeks

Beth Elohim Synagogue referred to as 133 Prospect out of their preference not to advertise right now. Transaction suggested, after the meetings, that we could refer to the address only.

Transaction really thinks that 133 Prospect Street lot is ideal lot for their needs.

Franny met with someone from 133 Prospect Street and Michelle from Transaction Assoc.; meeting went well; also set up meeting with Head of Pre-School, Head of Hebrew School, and Office Manager and others at 133 Prospect Street

133 Prospect Street has concerns about security

133 Prospect Street asked about cameras for parking lot to be monitored by police. This puts unfair requirement on police department.

Franny has notes from her meeting with 133 Prospect—that Transaction provided.

133 Prospect board will meet on June 13th to approve use of lot. Staff is expressing most concern but are willing to try it—board was supportive. They want to start with very small pilot program: 10 spaces with hang tags. Eventually could make use of 58 spaces there.

So we need another lot. Transaction is looking at West Acton fire house lot: about 30 spaces. Transaction is looking at one lot at a time. Future lots could be in Stow or on Acton-Maynard line (at Beacon building) or other locations.

Mike Gowing says fire station is a lock for use by shuttle.

Transaction is deciding on pricing: \$100/year gets you a hang tag for the 133 Prospect lot (includes the bus fare). Steve Ledoux has to check whether police will be able to monitor hang tag numbers.

Town would collect the fee and send the tags.

\$50 would get you a tag at the West Acton lot.

Questions for Transaction: what about car poolers? Does the \$100 cover everyone in the car?

Out-of-towners can pay same \$100 for hang tag?

Will other towns contribute to administrative costs of shuttle in years 1, 2, and 3, especially if residents of those towns use shuttle?

Can we have a higher rate for hang tags for out-of-towners?

How do we achieve our budgeted revenues with such low fees for hang tags?

We need to have our financial plan in place asap.

Transaction plans to start shuttle service using their CNG bus by end of June.

Mike G. mentions that there will be new meters at the South Acton lot, probably in September, and these will allow other pay options besides using quarters. Fees have not been set on the new meters. Fees must cover only the costs of maintaining the lot but cannot be more than those costs. Otherwise it's considered a tax. But we haven't determined the full cost of maintaining the lot (mowing, plowing, etc.).

Costs of West Acton lot have been calculated per space, by Bruce Stamski.

Still to be done:

Confirm the name of the service: "Minute Van"

Transaction wants to add "Partnership" because of acronym: "MVP"

What about "Minute Van Transit" as a possible alternate?

Marketing plan includes demo at July 3rd celebration of Acton 275th anniversary? This would be a soft roll-out for the service.

Need to get a story on the front page of the Beacon, including photo of the two vans.

Hard roll-out date still to be determined.

Transaction will coordinate with dial-a-ride for on-demand service.

One of the vans will be CNG

The next "Minute Van Regional" meeting (the "big thing with all the people") is June 15th, from 10 am to 12 noon. Mo Khan from MART plans to attend. Group is trying to get Jim Scanlan from LRTA to also attend.

MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Communication) is putting their money into two studies, one on a bike trail from Weston/Waltham/Wayland to Berlin (for this they need people in Sudbury to be interviewed) ; the other is an inventory of transportation resources in the MAGIC region. An intern is collecting information for the latter study. The intern plans to attend the June 15th meeting.

June 15th location to be determined.

Transaction will work on taxi-voucher program once the shuttle is operational.

Separately Transaction is talking to IBM in Littleton and other businesses about shuttle service to Littleton station. Red Hat of Westford has been very interested, Cisco and IBM less so.

Discussion of traffic problem on Arlington Street
Nancy mentions problem where Willow intersects with Central, weeds out of control, blocking sight-lines.

Site Plans

99 Parker Street (4 additional houses): this already has been approved by the BOS.

TAC future activities

Postponing discussion until shuttle is fully operational.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Notes submitted 6/5/10 by Michael Fisher, edited 6/5/10 by Franny Osman