

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - final

Town Hall Room 126

11 August, 2011

Committee Members Present:

David Martin
Tom Campbell
Clare Siska
Pat Clifford
Sean Hanley

Committee Members Not Present:

Michaela Moran

Other Attendees:

none

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Review of meeting minutes

- Deferred to next meeting

Progress with MAPC

- MAPC sent town a letter outlining the scope; David will email to committee.
- We believe the town manager has approved
- Some \$ attached, not clear who pays
- Traffic analysis planned for end of September, 2011

Update on Lighting

- Tom reported that Corey York had reached out to Green Acton and Dean Charter; they were doing some work assessing the train station lights, among others in town
- Tom reached out to GA to offer to help but has not heard back; will follow up
- We will look to Corey for updates
- Green Acton & Acton's Green Advisory Board are a conduit to a potential source of state funding

Farmer's Market Community Table

- Reserved for Sunday, October 16
- Purpose: Educate public about project & schedule
- Need commitments from at least 4 people to cover table, setup and takedown (2 shifts, 9:15 – 11:15 and 11:15 – 1:15)
- Need to produce materials:
 - Large posters with new designs
 - FAQ sheets / schedule on reverse
 - One copy of plan detail available at table
 - Other?
- Clare to confirm reservation, fill out paperwork
- Plan for development of FAQ + schedule at future meetings
- Large renderings of design after 90% design

- David will reach out to Kathy Acerbo Bachman to see if anyone from AHDC wants to participate
- Create the FAQ, put it on website and keep adding to it
- Staffing: David, Tom (probably), Clare, Pat; Sean is an absolute maybe (if in town)
- Next meeting we should discuss more publicity options, including the Beacon & MBTA offers to come to town for one more meeting before construction starts

Crossings & Whistles

- Sen. Eldridge encouraging this committee to reach out to Niki Tsongas office to get info on the whistle ban – invite someone from her office to one of our meetings.
- David will discuss with John Sonner, SATSAC liaison to BoS, to determine next steps
- Cory discussed Mass Ave crossing with Fitchburg Line Working Group. There appear to be some options for minimizing the impact, more so than last reported. New proposals will be considered; Corey York is lead on this.
- Whistle ban – regulations threshold is being gradually lowered over time so that fewer communities will be exempt from whistles. Many factors combine to make the threshold. So far we are under the threshold.
- Some options being considered for Mass Ave crossing would also impact our overall number (in favor of retaining our whistle ban status)
- MBTA does not get involved in whistle ban negotiations or take any action for one side or the other.
- David will continue to follow with John Sonner.

Discuss Station 60% Design

- Reviewed the most recent presentation given to MBTA Project Development Group for So. Acton Station and Acton's design working group: [http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-33770/south%20acton%20station%2060 %20 SATSAC-AHDC_110729.pdf](http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-33770/south%20acton%20station%2060%20SATSAC-AHDC_110729.pdf)
- Project now includes extension beyond Fitchburg
- Design includes steel siding; any place that has a canopy it is durable screening, if no canopy it is glass. Reworked elevator shaft so that the steel framing is inside rather than outside. Includes Hopes brand windows (steel framed); "T" weathervane. Windows sizes in bridge are such that panels can be replaced by 2 men from interior. Double width canopy on east end of south side of platform, for ticket vending machines and symmetry with north side.
- "Connex" containers, look like tractor trailer w/o engine, for storage of salt, equipment, etc. will be placed at the far ends of the structure. Consider ways to camouflage so long as we don't inhibit access
- Some items TBD like communications rooms, future location of vending machines, etc. South side layout around platform still being finalized
- South side will get a pad large enough for the same number of bike lockers as we currently have on the north side so quantity is doubled.
- Design of entry way / plaza still under discussion; rough ideas were reviewed. AHDC architects are taking the lead on this.
- 90% design meeting will take place between HNTB and the SATSAC/AHDC subgroup in September; will include information about the length of the construction stages.
- Staging plan phases were reviewed; first to be built is south platform and head houses; north side access is still functional. When the South side station is completed, it is a one-platform station completely on the south side. When the north side is being built, Railroad Street is closed and replacement parking must be provided.

- Schedule: 90% design Sept 2011; 100% design Dec 2011; Notice to Proceed July 2012; Substantial Completion Jan 2014. MBTA meeting with Town after 100% Design (January).
- Related discussion of parking, restriping, redo of lot areas because of construction impact, Montourri property, Gordon Richards' property – we want to “get out in front” of this (anticipate) in case we need to go to town meeting. We will discuss initially with Cory York.
- David routinely gets inquiries about increased parking; suggests we wait to see impact of trains going out to Littleton to turn around before taking any further action on this.
- David mentioned ideas of bus services that are being floated around.
- MoU between the town and the MBTA includes no-cost easements. David is waiting for specifics from HNTB, then the committee will discuss and vote a recommendation for the BoS

Fitchburg Line Working Group Update (FLWG)

- Last meeting – July 8 -- was not controversial. David attended; he reviewed his notes from that meeting, including costs and funding sources; Littleton station goes out to bid this month, construction starts in January, 2012; completion Q4 2013. Eldridge efforts to get parking in Ayer.
- Sen. Eldridge sent an email to the Maple-Martin neighborhood email list re: 100 spaces coming to Ayer. Clare will forward.
- Informal discussion of options for increasing parking in existing lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

The next SATSAC meetings will be September 8th and 29th

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Siska

Links:

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=244> is the SATSAC page.

<http://www.littletonma.org/content/49/3594/5590/default.aspx> is Littleton's MBTA Commuter Rail Advisory Committee.

http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585 is the MBTA site about the project.