

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - final
Council on Aging Senior Center
01 December, 2011

Committee Members Present:

David Martin
Clare Siska
Sean Hanley
Pat Clifford
Michaela Moran

Committee Members Not Present:

Tom Campbell

Other Attendees:

John Sonner (BoS liason)
Corey York (Engineering)

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

Review of meeting minutes

- 9/29 approved unanimously
- 11/03 approved with one abstention

Sidewalks

- Sidewalk committee is considering additions to Tier II list
- SC Mtg on Wednesday, December 14 at the Library – 7 PM
- Ms. Siska will attend SC meeting.
- Ms. Siska asks that SATSAC take a position on sidewalks (Maple to Martin)
- Discussion of the status of Martin Street sidewalk which is on the Tier I (approved and in progress) list. Some negotiation is continuing with abutters re: the width of the buffer. Unlikely to be completed this year: projects are delayed because town resources were dealing the aftermath of the hurricane and the October snowstorm.
- On Stow Street, we expect both pedestrian and vehicular traffic to increase
- Committee agreed we have a responsibility to advocate for safety for all areas around the station
- Ms. Siska moved that SATSAC take position in support of sidewalks from Maple to Martin Street due to the impact from the train station and danger to pedestrians; and that the committee direct the Chair to send a letter to SC to that effect, prior to their 12/14 meeting.
- Ms. Clifford seconded and added that we ask the SC to assign that stretch their highest priority
- Vote: unanimous in favor

CPC Funds for Station – Request Update (HDC)

- CPC meeting Thursday 12/8, 8:40 will discuss joint request. Location?
- Mr. Martin and Ms. Acerbo-Bachman will present to CPC
- Committee members welcome
- Town counsel opinion is that it does adhere to CPA if it works to buffer the station from the historic district

- Mr. Martin will forward any additional information to this committee
- Mr. Sonner suggested that permanent items such as stamped concrete take priority over landscaping that can be done later, if funds are short.
- Clarification is needed in the easement re: knockout areas that would enable future addition of trees. Want to ensure no prohibitions for town-sponsored improvements. Mr. Martin will inquire re: Phil Brake re: status of easements

Publicity – Review MBTA Feedback.

- Mr. Martin submitted our original document to the MBTA for review prior to our sending it to the press as material on which to base a news story.
- Committee reviewed the MBTA's changes
- Strike MBTA's sentence about the elevator maintenance.
- Move Littleton line up to make in chronological order
- TAC wants to participate on publicity and would want to review any material referencing their work. Mr. Martin to talk to Ms. Osman
- Any brochure we do in the future should also be run by MBTA.
- Clean version will be sent to the Beacon and the Patch by Mr. Martin
- Clean version will be posted on web site
- Our web page now points to CPC request
- Train station stuff is in lobby at town hall
- Information session – after town meeting

Parking Reconfiguration and Lighting – planning as required

- The chair inquired When do we need to take action on these items?
- Tom C had talked to Green Advisory Board and Dean Charter. Revisit at next meeting.
- Recouping Parking – no great urgency because construction will take up space for 2 years. Need to wait to see the contractor's plan for staging – start thinking about it this spring. We want to take advantage of any work that is being redone after construction
- TAC wants to work closely with contractor on offsite parking so that shuttles are coordinated. Mr. Martin will speak with Mr. Hadley
- Minutevan shuttle is out of money as of January. No money has been appropriated for it and not likely to happen.
- No North side parking lot impact until at least 6 months after construction starts – big gap.
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Whistle Ban – Planning as Required

- Mr. Martin spoke with Senator Eldridge; whistle ban is a Federal thing, the person to talk to is Rep. Tsongas. Talking in town or with MBTA is not the answer.
- Ask Tsongas whether there is anything we should be doing – informal first contact, followed by a specific request to take to the Board – Jane Adams, Acton office
- SATSAC asks the BoS and Town Manager to approach Tsongas office.

Committee Calendar: (to be added to minutes moving forward)

- Committee Meetings:
 - January 5 if needed
 - January 26
 - + every 3 weeks after that
- Publicity
 - 2011:

- Q4 posters in town hall
- Q4 articles in Beacon and Patch; Globe Metrowest?
- 2012:
 - Q21 Information Session with MBTA
 - Q1/ Q2 Pamphlet handout at station
 - Q1/ Q2 Station cleanup project
 - April – Table at Town Meeting
 - Q2 – articles in surrounding town papers; around bid acceptance
 - Q2 – Announcements on home page of town website
 - June – Groundbreaking ceremony

Note: The next SATSAC meetings are scheduled for 1/5 (if needed), 1/26 and every 3 weeks after that. Ms. Siska will include the schedule in the meeting notes cover emails moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

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.