

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - final
Council on Aging Senior Center
26 January, 2012

Committee Members Present:

David Martin
Clare Siska
Sean Hanley
Pat Clifford
Tom Campbell

Committee Members Not Present:

Michaela Moran

Other Attendees:

John Sonner (BoS liason)
Corey York (Engineering)
Dana Snyder-Grant (Sidewalk Committee)

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

Review of meeting minutes

- 12/01 approved unanimously

Sidewalks

- Clare Siska and Dana Snyder-Grant reported from the December Sidewalk Committee meeting:
 - Stow Street was added unanimously to existing Tier II list
 - All of Tier II list will be prioritized at February sidewalk meeting
 - Sudbury uses CPC funds to fund sidewalks under Recreation category. Stow Street might be a test candidate because of proximity to playground, Caouette Land and ARRT. Ms. Clifford reported that failed to pass CPC in Acton a few years ago.
- Bettina Abe (SC) and Corey York met with Martin Street resident Bob Condon and have resolved design issues for Martin street; anticipate Spring, 2012 construction
- Unspent sidewalk funds revert to the general fund at the end of every fiscal year. Mr. York clarified very little \$ goes back as it is also spent on sidewalk repairs.
- SATSAC members are always welcome to Sidewalk Committee meetings – 2nd Wednesday of the month at the library.

Publicity

- Large poster has been on display at Town Hall; very eye catching. Mr. Martin will look into moving it to the library through Mary Catis, library's administrative assistant.
- Newspaper press – Articles were in the Patch and the Beacon; Beacon article focused on MBTA cutbacks plus construction. Patch article was a reprint of our FAQ document. One negative comment appeared in the Patch. Indirect feedback on Beacon article was positive
- SATSAC Website – Mr. Martin will arrange to put link to new Beacon. He will check with MBTA to see if we can link to the most recent HNTB presentation on MBTA's site (not frequently updated) or if we can post it directly. He will also identify dated material to be removed.

- Discussed options for social media to share updated information about project and construction. – text messages, email, Google chat, South Acton Rail Chat, Twitter? Facebook? Some sort of forum or blog? We will continue discussing in future meetings.

Flyer – review draft and plans for distribution.

- Feedback was generally positive with some suggestions for edits.
- Some date corrections need to be made – Mr. Martin will send current dates to Ms. Siska
- Committee wants to do one version now and an updated version later.
- Motion by Mr. Campbell to direct Ms. Siska and Mr. Campbell to incorporate the suggestions discussed. Final version to be sent to Mr. Martin, who will make copies and post them alongside the poster (at Town Hall or Library).
- Mr. Hanley seconded. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Town Meeting – initial planning – (Town meeting starts April 2nd)

- Mr. York was asked to arrange for a table for SATSAC for first night of Town Meeting.
- Suggested we use a laptop to show the MBTA slides
- We will also display the big poster and have flyers as handouts.
- We will need volunteers to set up and staff the table

Public Info Session - scheduling

- Paul Hadley (MBTA) wants the contractor at the meeting; contractor will not be determined until bid process is complete.
- Project dates appear to be under revision, so it is too early to schedule the meeting.
- We hope to have public information session date/time on flyers by Town Meeting; if not, then a URL or email address where people can sign up to receive information.
- Mr. Martin will inquire about TAC's forum/list – can we piggyback on that?
- Mr. Hanley suggested that the public info session date could be presented to potential bidders at the pre-bid meeting, if there is one. Mr. Martin will inquire.

MBTA Cutbacks – SATSAC position

- Discussed committee position on fare increases and cutbacks.
- Discussed drafting a letter for the BoS to send to Sen. Eldridge, Rep. Benson and Rep. Atkins – this would be a combined message from BoS, TAC and SATSAC voicing concerns regarding the increases/cuts.
- Reviewed and commented on Mr. Martin's draft letter. Mr. Martin will contact Ms. Osman re: TAC participation.
- Ms. Clifford moved that Mr. Martin send the BoS a letter that is in the spirit of the draft reviewed, with the request that that the Selectmen send a similar letter to the legislators.
- Second by Mr. Hanley. Vote: unanimously approved.

CPC Request - status

- CPC felt the original request was too broad; wanted more specifics especially around costs. CPC funds are highly competitive.
- HDC and SATSAC will make a followup presentation to CPC in February; date TBD
- CPC wants to see written permission from the MBTA allowing us to landscape on MBTA property.
- At Mr. Martin's request, the Town Manager sent a letter on 1/26/12 to MBTA requesting approval for the town to do landscaping on MBTA land. Has been discussed with Mr. Hadley and we approval, hopefully before CPC meeting.

- Reviewed updated design documents from the MBTA re: the plaza area.
- If CPC request goes to Town Meeting and passes, the town would expend the monies to do the landscaping. (Not turn it over to the MBTA)
- Mr. Martin will notify SATSAC when the CPC presentation date is announced.

Parking issues during construction

- When we lose 1/3 of the lot, how are the Town versus non-resident spaces impacted? The town spaces are closer to the construction area. SATSAC needs to make a recommendation for how to manage this fairly.
- Deferred to next meeting.

MAPC Update – review recommendations

- Deferred to next meeting

Committee Calendar

- Upcoming Committee Meetings
 - February 16
 - March 8
 - March 29 -- last meeting before town meeting
 - + every 3 weeks after that
- Publicity
 - 2012:
 - TBD Information Session with MBTA
 - Q1 / Q2 Pamphlet handout at station
 - Q1 / Q2 Station cleanup project
 - April 2– Table at Town Meeting
 - Q2 ? – articles in surrounding town papers; around bid acceptance
 - Q2 ? – Announcements on home page of town website
 - ? – Groundbreaking ceremony

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn; Mr. Hanley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 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.