

# South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - final  
Council on Aging Senior Center  
12 April, 2012

## Committee Members Present:

David Martin  
Clare Siska  
Tom Campbell  
Pat Clifford  
Michaela Moran

## Committee Members Not Present:

Sean Hanley

## Other Attendees:

John Sonner (BoS liason)  
Corey York (Engineering)  
Pam Cochrane (Sidewalk Committee)

**Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.**

## Review of meeting minutes

- The minutes of 03/22/12 were approved unanimously (Ms. Clifford moved; Ms. Moran second).

## Town Meeting – Review

- Most feedback was positive; impressed that we get such a station
- Negative feedback: design not good for neighborhood, too large, waste of money
- Many wanted to know about schedule
- Flyers were well received; almost all were distributed
- Not a good venue for the slide show; removed after first day

## Weekend alternate train stop during construction

- Starting this coming weekend 4/21, the MBTA will be stopping weekend train service west of Acton to work on the double tracking. They will bus people to and from Fitchburg, stopping at stations in between. An article was in today's *Beacon*. Estimated to last for 7 weekends. Mr. Martin had sent links to press releases to the SATSAC earlier this week.
- Impact on community:
  - More people will be coming through to pick up those that don't want to take the busses
  - More trains may be "hovering" at Acton.
  - Noted that there are fewer trains on the weekends.
- Relatedly, crossing construction around town will be starting in the coming weeks
- The MBTA wants to stop the trains at an alternate point outside of the current station, on weekends only, at some point during construction. They are considering potential locations, one is near the School Street Civil Defense building. MBTA and MBCR will meet with Mr. York at the station site at 8 AM Friday, 4/13. Time of year will make a difference in the level of inconvenience. Mr. Martin will attend meeting and try to get as many facts as possible.
- Mr. Martin will send an update to SATSAC via email if there are any impacts of immediate concern.

### **Publicity: website, TV, etc.**

- Mr. Martin will look into the process for putting bulletin board materials on Acton TV. We agreed that the chair, or his designee, should have the authority to create information as needed to post. The exact same announcement can be posted on the Rail Chat.
- Ms. Moran requested that Mr. Martin ask the MBTA whether they are going to be posting information on their site so we can send people there.
- Mr. Martin will ask the town IT department if we can have a bulletin section on our web page. Updates would be sent to the IT email list for posting.
- We will keep the posters up at the library. They are getting lots of interest. Ms. Siska will replenish the flyers regularly.
- Voiceover script for slide show, for Acton TV, will be revisited when an updated project schedule has been provided by the MBTA.
- Facebook page -- Had been discussed in a previous meeting; may be against town policy. Mr. Martin will check on whether it is acceptable for SATSAC to have a Facebook page, or whether there is an Acton Facebook page we can post to.
- Handing out flyers at the station: We will do this once we have a date for the Information session. Mr. Martin will ask Paul Hadley if there is an update on the bidding timing and schedule.

### **Station cleanup final planning**

- Saturday, April 28 10 AM – 4 PM
- Mr. Campbell is working with Dean Charter on logistic, such as mulch.
- Green Acton will have a station at Jones Tavern with trash bags, maybe a dumpster?
- Mr. Campbell created a flyer and distributed it to the high school; 4/28 is senior volunteer day
- Committee members are asked to bring refreshments for volunteers and equipment: rakes, shovels, etc.
- Mr. Campbell will coordinate the cleanup.
- Mr. Campbell will bring a tent and table (borrow from ABFM)

### **Parking issues during construction**

- The letter to BoS, drafted at the previous meeting, is going out Friday, April 13th

### **Lighting planning - update**

- Mr. Campbell questioned his authority to send the letter of interest; does not have all the information.
- Mr. Campbell will fill in what information he can, then ask Dean Charter to help him fill out the rest. Will ask Dean Charter to sign and send it. This will put us on the project list.
- We do not have an estimate of cost for the new lights.
- Project time frame TBD

### **Whistle ban – contact local representative of Congressman Tsongas (Jane Adams)**

- Mr. Martin will follow up.

### **Committee Calendar**

- Upcoming Committee Meetings
  - April 28 station cleanup
  - May 3 – (Ms. Clifford and Mr. Sonner unavailable)
  - May 24 tentative
  - + every 3 weeks after that

- Publicity
  - Library posters and pamphlets ongoing
  - April 28 flyers at station & station cleanup day
  - TBD flyer handout at station
  - TBD Information Session with MBTA
  - TBD – articles in surrounding town papers; around bid acceptance
  - TBD – Announcements on home page of town website
  - TBD – Groundbreaking ceremony

Ms. Moran moved to adjourn; Mr. Campbell second. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 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](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585) is the MBTA site about the project.