

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - final

Town Hall Room 126

31 May, 2012

Committee Members Present:

David Martin

Clare Siska

Tom Campbell

Pat Clifford

Michaela Moran

Committee Members Not Present:

Sean Hanley

Other Attendees:

Pam Cochrane (Sidewalk Committee)

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Review of meeting minutes

- The minutes of 04/12/12 were approved unanimously (with corrections) (Ms. Moran moved; Ms. Clifford second).

Public Input – Email responses

- David set up one of his personal email accounts to look like he is sending from SATSAC.
- Public Input item will be on the agenda moving forward.
- Chair will continue to respond to emails coming to the committee; will appoint someone if he will be away.
- Chair is saving all emails for 2+ years.

Construction issues – weekend disruptions, noise, etc.

- Meeting took place at east side of Main Street with MBCR after our previous meeting. Their workers are responsible for the main track and some residual work.
- Stopping the trains on the east side of the bridge will take place for three-four weekends starting July 23, 2012 (change from June). They will clean it up, put in stairs, to small parking area, put in some lighting, other temporary improvements. Busses will be used to move passengers past Acton. The tracks will be re-aligned at South Acton and the station will later be built around it. Weekend of June 9 & 10 is when they will refurbish the old station.
- Construction of Littleton Station is coming along.
- At last Selectmen's meeting they discussed with Town Manager the construction scheduling (2 shifts). They directed the Town Manager to get more information from the MBTA; it will be brought back to another Selectmen's meeting. Neighborhood reaction was rational, reasonable.
- MBTA is looking for notice to proceed in October.
- Bids going out shortly. We anticipate contractor selection in August, so public info session should be scheduled in September or October before construction proceeds.
- David will discuss selecting a date with Paul Hadley so we can get on the meeting room calendar. Rooms are filling up; public safety building or TV station. Chair will explore meeting spaces.

Local TV can record it and play it again and again. Members of committee should be prepared to handle some of the questions that are not appropriate for the MBTA.

Publicity – poster, flyer, website, TV, ABFM table, etc.

- David has set it up so he can post construction notices very quickly – our website; Acton TV bulletins; Acton Patch and Rail Chat.
- <http://www.Acton-ma.gov/satsac> is now a working URL (change for brochure)
- Town facebook page – David has not checked this out yet.
- Can the MBTA do anything on the red sign at the station?
- Minutevan – make a basic announcement and paste it to the inside of the 2 minutevans?
- Recent newspaper article
- MBTA issues press releases but doesn't seem to put it on their own website. Commuter rail Fitchburg line website is out of date. An operations contact would be ideal.
- Pamphlets at Library taken down; consider again after we have more info this summer
- Acton Patch video a few weeks back
- TBD flyer handout at station – aim for around first of august with flyer updated with info session.
- Flyer needs to be updated
- TBD ABFM table – maybe 4? Weeks before the info session. Clare to hold last Sunday of August and first September Sunday that we can get
- TBD Information Session with MBTA?
- TBD – articles in surrounding town papers; around bid acceptance
- TBD – Announcements on home page of town website? BoS will run with that.
- TBD – Groundbreaking ceremony - T will take care of that
- Flyer the neighborhood? – no
- Iron Work Farm October 1
- Octoberfest October 8 table?
- Lists significant dates in the meeting minutes

Station cleanup debrief

- Was great!!! Thanks to Tom for organizing.
- Most stuff has kept in place; some positive comments overheard
- Some trash returned the following week; trash cans were full and might have blown out.

Parking issues during construction, expansion, lighting, etc.

- No updates

Coordination – TAC, Economic Development Committee, etc.

- Pat reports that during a Planning Board meeting, Derik Chen who observes EDC reports that EDC is bored with sign bylaw stuff; edc is very interested in the aspect of “the last mile” – from train station to work or home. TAC had talked with them. David will try to attend their meetings. Is there a business friendly ED strategy to match up businesses with transportation options. Story of reverse shoppers to Fitchburg station because there is a supermarket in walking distance of train. Pickups during off hours. What is TAC doing these days? No updates from Franny recently.

Future Meetings, Calendar

- Our meetings now on town calendar, through Corey York; cc Kim
- Upcoming SATSAC Committee Meetings
 - June 21

- July 19
- August 16
- + every 3 weeks after that

Suggestions for upcoming meeting agendas:

- Mass Ave crossing
- ARRT & parking area – invite Roland

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn. Michaela seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Siska

Links:

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/satsac> 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.