

## South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - final

Town Hall Room 126

23 January, 2014

### Committee Members Present:

- David Martin
- Clare Siska
- Pat Clifford
- Sean Hanley
- Tom Campbell
- Michaela Moran

### Other Attendees:

- Ted Pyne, resident
- Bob Condon, resident
- Phoebe Conant, resident
- Bill Davies, resident

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

### Comments from the Public

- None

### WIFI at the station

- Acton resident Ted Pyne presented his proposal for installing public access WIFI at the station and responded to questions from committee members.
- Considerations are CapX + ongoing costs and funding sources; timing of installation; liability; obtaining MBTA permission and cooperation.
- Pat C. moved that the SATSAC Chair pursue the proposal with Town staff and MBTA as appropriate. Clare S. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Construction: delay, railroad tie & hours concerns, Fitchburg Line Working Group meeting, Keolis, etc.

- A Central Street resident had complained of after-hours construction noise. Joe Nolan (MBTA community outreach representative) handled the complaint.
- 'Round-the-clock work is suspended until the spring construction season starts.
- Train service shutdown on weekends will resume May – November, 2014 to accommodate replacement of several bridges. Single tracking will be implemented Monday-Friday from Concord to Ayer, with some weekday schedule adjustments.
- A Martin Street resident and track abutter contacted Joe Nolan to request that the railroad ties near her home be removed, citing odor from creosote and health concerns. Joe had committed to addressing it but the ties are still in place. David M. will contact Joe N. for a status.
- Placement of the railroad ties led to discussion of pedestrians walking on the track right-of-way from Martin Street to the station. This is and has always been illegal and it was suggested that we find a way to notify pedestrians, such as contacting those with Jones Field parking permits. MBTA signs may have been removed during construction. David M will discuss with Joe N.

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- Project schedule is delayed ~6 months due to subcontractor issues. The inbound platform is now scheduled to open in late 2014 with both sides open by the end of 2014. The entire Fitchburg Line project is scheduled to complete some time in 2015.
- There is no additional information about an operational change to implement train turnarounds in Littleton instead of Acton.
- A new project manager – Maribell Kelly -- has been named for the Small Starts aspect of the project, including So. Acton Station. Paul Hadley remains overall Fitchburg Line project manager.
- Keolis Commuter Services has been named the new contractor to run the commuter rail system, replacing MBCR. MBCR is appealing the decision.

**Historical panels: process status, timeline content, etc.**

- The subcommittee has prepared and submitted to the MBTA content (photos/art and text) for 4 out of 5 of the station's historical panels: Three panels cover agriculture, business, and the railroad; one panel features the 1892 birds' eye view image. Content for a fifth panel, to include the 1735 (year of incorporation) map of Acton and a timeline of historical milestones, is incomplete.
- David M will meet with the Acton Historical Society (AHS) to obtain approval of the content.
- Five of the photos selected are not owned by the AHS. SATSAC's first choice is to use the originally selected photos. Michaela moved that Tom C pursue the rights and originals for scanning, for the selected photos. Tom C seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Tom C was asked to report back to the subcommittee before their next meeting.
- Other sources of content will only be pursued if the permissions and photos cannot be secured.
- Tom C requested that he be referred to as "Mr. Campbell" in the minutes.
- David M will ask his contact at the MBTA (Kathryn Knowlton) whether the station construction delay gives us more time to provide the historical panel content.
- Clare S will draft an expanded version of the timeline content in time for the next subcommittee meeting.

**Coordination: Transportation Advisory Committee, Sidewalk, Assabet River Rail Trail, etc.**

- Town Planner Roland Bartl told David M. that the ARRT design has not moved forward. There is no change in status.
- Tom C questioned whether the large amount of fill on the Montourri property will change the grade and impact plans for a parking area. Sean asked if there is a project line item to remove excess material offsite. David M. will ask the MBTA at a later date TBD.
- Littleton is officially requesting state funding to expand their parking area to double the number of spaces, and to make traffic improvements.
- An Acton resident complained to the Town about the amount of lights in the parking lot that are not working. Resident Bob C. had observed work being done on the lights. Clare S will do a drive-by to check status.
- Pat C. reported from Budget Saturday: Cross-town Connect initiative seems to be getting support and may receive grant monies. Some discussion of doing things at the train station sooner, e.g., installing new meters. Mike Gowing, Selectman, said that there is funding available for repaving the train station lot. Unclear whether that is in FY 2013-14 or proposed in FY 2014-15 budget. SATSAC will need to address timing with Engineering Dept. now that train station project is delayed.

**Review and accept prior meeting minutes**

- Michaela M. moved that the minutes of November 7, 2013 be accepted as corrected. Tom C seconded. Minutes were approved with one abstention (Pat C.), one Nay vote (Clare S.), and four Aye votes (David M., Michaela M, Sean H., and Tom C).

**Future meetings and calendar events over next several months**

- Historic panel subcommittee: Thursday, February 6, 2014, 7:30 PM
- SATSAC full committee: Thursday, February 13, 2014, 7:30 PM

**Adjourn**

- Pat C. moved to adjourn; Sean H. seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska