

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Acton Senior Center
November 11, 2014

Members Present:

David Martin Michaela Moran Herman Kabakoff
Sean Hanley Tom Campbell

Other Attendees:

Corey York Dev (Acton Resident) Gordon Richards

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

1. Comments from the public –

- a. Dev discussed his concerns over the low number of parking spaces available at the station, and the low parking fees.
- b. He expressed an interest in becoming a member of the committee.
- c. David M. explained that we are expecting a rate increase once the construction project has wrapped up. It was the committee's feeling that raising the parking fees while construction was underway and inconvenience was at its peak, would be unfair.
- d. David also explained the original purpose of the committee (parking deck research) and the evolution and timeline of the available funding and the new orientation toward station reconstruction.

2. Review and accept prior minutes

- a. The minutes from October 2, 2014, and October 30, 2014 were approved unanimously

3. Construction Update

- a. Platform installation was expected to be completed by Sunday, November 23.
- b. Some neighbors have expressed concern and discontentment with the station contractors starting too early. Our understanding is that the agreement between the MBTA and the Board of Selectmen is that construction activities will not start before 7am, except for extreme circumstances, and in such cases the neighborhood will receive prior notification.
- c. The weekend train schedule is expected to resume normal operations on the weekend of 11/19/14.
- d. It appears that a couple of the ramps leading to the platforms were fully formed and ready to pour

4. Historical Panels

- a. Railroad Panel – several photos were swapped due to poor scan quality.
- b. Tom asked that the captions and credits be validated one more time to ensure their accuracy
- c. It was suggested that the large 'shadow' capital letter on the "Business" and "Agriculture" panel be eliminated
- d. The Map panel was discussed. The wider column format was preferred
- e. Michaela asked that the font size for the credits on the bird's eye map be the same as on the other photos. It was also recommended that she submit her expenses for the work and materials involved in providing that item
- f. 'Business' panel – a change was suggested for the 'Davis King Co.' photo. It was also suggested that the font colors, and the town seal be more uniform in format from panel to panel

- g. 'Agriculture' panel – the veracity of the technical specifications of the 'spring floor' in Exchange Hall was hotly debated. Despite outreach to a local architectural historian, no clear consensus was reached.
- h. The plural or singular use of the word 'Fair', as in Town Fair, was discussed in great detail

5. Parking

- a. David had spoken with Peter Berry (our BoS liaison). Peter explained that the Board of Selectmen is looking for more detailed recommendations from our committee for future possible uses of The Gordon Richards property.
- b. Peter also expressed to David the idea of placing a new Senior Center on the Richards property.
- c. Herman expressed discomfort over our committee providing input in matters which may be outside of our expertise and/or our charter
- d. Tom expressed willingness to write up a couple of proposals for future use of the property. He and Sean agreed to work together on ideas for the property and circulation in the area
- e. Sean expressed concern over any future use ideas without any consideration for the traffic impact within a given radius (1000') of the station. He feels a comprehensive traffic study is imperative

6. Future Meetings

- a. The subcommittee agreed to meet next on December 11 (since changed to December 18) and January 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05

SPH