

# South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes  
Acton Senior Center  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## Committee Members Present:

- David Martin
- Tom Campbell
- Bob Condon
- Michaela Moran
- Herman Kabakoff, Finance Committee

## Committee Members Not Present:

- Sean Hanley
- Peter Berry, Board of Selectmen

## Other Attendees:

- Cory York, Town Staff
- John Sonner, resident
- Claire Siska, resident
- Todd Fahey, resident
- Gordon Richards, resident
- Kristin Hall, resident
- Buffy Harvey-Forsythe, resident
- Luke Evans, resident
- Trey Kellett, resident

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

### Comments from the Public

- There were several members of the public present, many of which were residents of the abutting neighborhood.
- Ms. Siska had provided some feedback via e-mail related to the best use options for Gordon Richard's property, and generally her feeling was that of the options presented in past meetings and discussions, parking was a better option than, for example, a multi unit 40b development.
- Ms. Siska provided some documentation that Ann Forbes had pulled together referencing the historical nature of the Richards' property
- Ms. Siska asked that generally in planning for the use of the Richards' property that consideration be given to the 1995 town plan which recommended that the area be developed into a simple village
- Ms. Hall mentioned that utilizing the property as a destination (i.e. a café or art space or some community use) would be a better addition to the neighborhood and South Acton
- Ms. Harvey-Forsythe said that with all of the effort that went into planning the station, more thought should go into the use of the land to help it be more appropriate for the neighborhood. One idea being a park at the end of the rail trail.

- Mr Sonner noted that he hoped that town moved quickly to buy the land and move slowly to find a use for the land. Many others agreed with this idea.

#### **Construction – general update, schedule, noise, and issues**

- No material construction updates were noted, but the project appears to be on track for completion in 2015 - Inbound platform to open in the spring with the outbound platform opening in the fall.
- The project schedule was provided and showed the construction of the inbound head house was to begin within days.

#### **Parking and recommendation to Board of Selectmen for use of Richards' property**

- Mr. Martin drafted a letter that formally proposed a recommendation to the BOS and read the letter aloud at the meeting.
- Some minor edits were made and a sentence was added suggesting the BOS expedite their decision, but spend time to decide on a use for the property.
- Members of the public asked if we could strike a mention in the letter related to there not being any major opposition to adding station parking. Some discussion was had and the decision of the committee was to leave the statement as is.
- Mr. Kabakoff moved to send the revised letter to the BOS, Mr. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Historical Panels – an update**

- Mr. Martin noted that an edit was made to the historical panels as a photo provided to the MBTA did not render well when blown up to 4'. He is currently investigating other picture options at the Jenks Library.

#### **Review & accept prior meeting minutes**

- Mr. Kabakoff moved that we accept the minutes of 12/8/14, Mr Condon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Future meetings,**

- February 5th
- February 26th

**Mr Kabakoff moved to adjourn, Mr Campbell seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm**

Respectfully submitted by Tom Campbell