

Transportation Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Wed Oct. 17, 2012, 7:30 pm

Location: Room 121 Town Hall

Present: Jim Citro, Michael Fisher, Franny Osman, Bengt Muten
Visitors present: Charles Mercer, Kate Chung, Jim Snyder-Grant

Reviewed Sept. minutes, Bengt asked that acronyms be written out.

Now that the shuttle has been taken over by town, with Doug Halley as Transportation Coordinator, and now that committee is no longer frequently receiving site plans for comments, what is our mission? Should we focus on connectivity within town?

Examples of solutions to connectivity mentioned are Conant land on Brook Street which presently is publicly available once a year. Another example is Piper Road to right behind TD Bank through Great Hill: pave a path (one person's suggestion).

March 9th 2011 there was a meeting of Acton 2020 on how we get around Acton. There was a meeting on connectivity.

Kristen (sp?) Alexander did a trail map of Acton. There's also a report (of some sort: health department report?) about connectivity.

Should TAC put together a big-picture trail of connecting routes within Acton?

Hold a community event to discuss trails and bike paths . . . ?

If you have a big picture you can argue for individual paths (being created, or paved).

There is no group working on connectivity. The 20/20 implementation committee is just getting started.

Question of focus: connect what? Connect it how?
You could phase it in after getting data from people.
Mention of Walking School Bus with Douglas School.

Land Stewardship Committee has GPS'd almost all the trails in town. MAPC has included Acton Trail data in its maps of trails. Bay Circuit Trail also has Acton maps. Also consultant received the maps, and he put it on GIS data to show elevation and slopes. This comes into play because there are regulations coming into play requiring towns to have a plan to make trails accessible—OPDMD (??). Could focus on trails that are closest to level to make them accessible.

Franny wants year-round accessibility.

Land Stewardship Committee wants to get the data to Google Maps so that trails can be included in Google directions for walking. Don't forget Apple (Open Street Map). Nokia has NavTech. People with smart phones could then find walking paths.

Boxboro has been trying for years to get the state to build a sidewalk on Rt. 111. Something about Guggins Brook and Applewood being a way to this.

Identify streets that would have a bike lane painted on them. There might be roads that are wide enough to just paint them without having to widen them. A good demo could be Prospect Street: make it one way with bike lane? Prospect Street already has sidewalks on both sides. Widen sidewalks? This might not be a solution for serious bicyclists.

Look at where people are already biking. Example of insertion of bike lane on Rt. 62 near Bedford Farms and into Concord Center.

How do you connect the two future rail trails?

Discussion of possible "Emerald Necklace" within Acton of connecting paths between conservation lands.

What about bike path signs? How do you get these?

Bike lanes

Sidewalks

Improving something between "hot spots" need up-to-date overlay

Traffic calming

Franny talks about list of solutions, list of places that are reasonable destinations, list of different kinds of people

Possibility of doing Emerald Trail between conservation lands

Or address "The Big Vacuum" that the town has: look at all the transportation and how does it interact

Or focus on bike paths around town

Paths from town center to town center?

There are clever ideas out there for connecting parts of town

Franny wants to poll the town to see what it wants—example: connection from Post Office Square to Rt. 2A

Possible goals:

Connecting conservation lands

Connecting neighborhoods

Connecting hot spots (including schools)

Bike paths around town

Franny picturing Lincoln where they have trails between neighborhoods, across conservation lands

20/20 has list of "to dos"

Making walking and biking easier and safer

Build sidewalks

Making biking and walking safer

Improve communications about walking and biking paths

Franny wants public input
It's good because it gives you legitimacy
Relate to health department goals

Jim Snyder-Grant wants to get trail data on Kristen's GIS map
Also need to update sidewalk information on her map

There are now two Kristen's among town staff; the "new" Kristen provided the map that needs to be updated

Cory York is the town engineer who has been constructing and designing sidewalks and printing maps
Franny is writing to new Kristen asking "what is process for updating map with trails and sidewalks"

Jim will aim to update the map with trail information
Chuck will send Acton 20/20 report to TAC
Franny will take care of emailing the other folks at tonight's meeting

TAC video is on channel 41

ActonTV.org/VOD_public.html

Jim Citro is going to revisit the bike rack request from the woman who contacted us last year, to invite that woman to TAC.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm
Next meeting is November 28th at 7:30