

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee
March 11, 2010 Meeting Minutes - DDM

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TOWN CLERK, ACTON

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Committee Members Present:

David Martin
Dore' Hunter
John Sonner
Michaela Moran
Nick Zavalas
Pat Clifford
Peter Berry
Sean Hanley
Tom Campbell

Committee Members Not Present:

Jim Yarin

Other Attendees:

Bruce Stamski
Dean Cavaretta
Janet Adachi
Lauren Rosenzweig
Pam Harding-Barrett
Paul Spooner
Rep. Corey Atkins
Rep. Jen Benson
Sen. Jaime Eldridge
Tara Friedrichs
(members of the public)

Mr. Berry called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Mr. Berry announced that John Sonner is now an official member of the committee.

Paul Spooner with the Metrowest Center for Independent Living shared his experience with the MBTA, specifically rebuilding stations on the Framingham-Worcester line. Originally, the MBTA didn't want elevators in the Framingham station, but was essentially forced to have elevators by the town and other groups. He said that the Daily News doesn't have any record of reports about problems with the elevators. He said that he does not like the idea of a center island platform from the point of view of accessibility. He said that 60% design should not be a barrier -- there is still plenty of time for a redesign. Even though ramps are technically compliant, elevators are the obviously better choice for people on crutches, people with breathing problems, etc.

Sen. Eldridge, and Reps. Benson and Atkins, announced that the MBTA has accepted the Town of Acton's alternative plan, including dual platforms and elevators, and no ramps. Mr. Berry reported that this would delay the construction of the station by 6-9 months, and the dual tracks may be constructed first. He said that they could afford the station changes, because they have been able to use a new type of signal, which is less expensive. The MBTA would like to meet with a small set of representatives on a regular basis. Rep. Atkins reported that it's important to thank the Secretary Mullan and the Patrick administration. Mr. Stamski said that there is the possibility of a pull-out for a shuttle drop-off on Maple Street.

Mr. Campbell moved that we accept the MBTA's plan. The committee voted unanimously to accept the plan.

Ms. Moran reported that the MHC has a file on the project. She will write a response.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 Thursday 25 March 2010 at the COA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06.

Links:

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=244> is the SATSAC page.

<http://www.calltoacton.org/> is the local advocacy group.

[http://www.mbta.com/about the mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585) is the MBTA site about the project.