

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - final
Council on Aging Senior Center
29 September, 2011

Committee Members Present:

David Martin
Tom Campbell
Clare Siska
Pat Clifford
Michaela Moran

Committee Members Not Present:

Sean Hanley

Other Attendees:

John Sonner (BoS liason)
Corey York (Engineering)
Paulina Knibbe (resident / Acton 20/20 Committee)

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

Review of meeting minutes

- The meeting minutes 9/8 were approved unanimously. (Ms. Clifford moved, Mr. Campbell second)

Acton 2020 Connections

- Ms. Knibbe talked about Acton 20/20 goals related to SATSAC: transportation, ridership, MAPC (not on their list) TAC shuttles, ARRT, parking—to determine where SATSAC's oversight overlaps with their goals
- Reminder of 10/12 Acton 20/20 meeting re: Connections; request for SATSAC attendance; we can comment, propose more goals, etc.
- Also asked for support of the Acton 20/20 at 2012 Town Meeting

90% Station Design Issues

- Mr. Martin briefed the committee on the meeting with the MBTA & HNTB that took place on the AM of 9/29.
- Physical aspect of 90% design has very little change from 60% - very minor things
- Discussion was about site plan and landscaping
- Informal meeting notes from Mr. York distributed on 9/29 provide detail. (See attached.)
- Ms. Clifford suggested we request recycling receptacles in addition to trash receptacles. Green Acton and Green Advisory Committee were suggested as contacts to help make that happen.
- MBTA legal department will need to act with town counsel on easements within the next month. MBTA concern is around costs. The committee reviewed the MBTA's draft easement letter. Ms. Moran moved that the SATSAC chair send the MBTA draft letter to the BoS, with a cover letter recommending that the BoS send a letter to the MBTA based on the draft provided. Ms. Clifford seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The SATSAC chair will be responsible for ensuring that town counsel review the letter. Ms. Clifford wants time constraints around easements; Mr. Martin will include these concerns in the cover letter and cite current project plan dates. The Chair will request time on the BoS agenda ASAP.

- The committee reviewed the MBTA draft letter re: use of Railroad street lot during construction. This is an understanding that the MBTA can use the land that they leased to us so no lease cancellation is necessary, avoiding future legal negotiations and costs. Any damages by the entity that is constructing the station will be restored by them. Ms. Clifford moved that the SATSAC chair send the MBTA draft letter to the BoS, with a cover letter recommending that the BoS send a letter to the MBTA based on the draft provided. Ms. Moran seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Campbell raised the issue of a walkway under the Rt. 27 bridge; was informed that this concept was dismissed by the MBTA previously.
- Mr. Campbell asked committee begin looking into the plans for the Montourri property as parking; discussion ensued about what action we should be taking about this. Ms. Clifford asked that we start considering a proposal. Mr. Martin suggests we should discuss in 2012, and get feedback from the town, with goal to take issue to Town Meeting in 2013.

Farmer's Market Community Table (Sunday, 10/16)

- Committee reviewed Mr. Martin's draft FAQ document. Mr. Martin will prepare a final version and make copies for the ABFM community table.
- Mr. York will prepare large prints from images to be provided by the MBTA.
- Mr. Martin will set up; others to staff table: Ms. Clifford, Mr. Honn (AHDC), Mr. Campbell (weather permitting); possibly Mr. Hanley.
- One copy of the large planbook will also be available at the table.

AHDC Proposal for CPC Funds

- The AHDC met with the CPC and submitted a preliminary application for funds for site improvements, based on the bordering of the historic district -\$150K request
- AHDC wants SATSAC to co-sponsor the formal application (due in November)
- Proposal adds more landscaping rather than the minimum to be provided by the MBTA, adds "people aesthetics," such as benches
- Ms. Clifford questioned about the legality of the use of CPC funds for this purpose and the large amount of money requested. We were informed that the AHDC Chair is running it by town counsel. Ms. Siska moved that we co-sponsor the application with the AHDC; Mr. Campbell seconded. Vote: YES: Siska, Martin, Campbell, Martin; NO: (none); Abstained: Clifford
- Mr. Martin will follow up with AHDC Chair.

Crossings and Whistles

- Mr. Martin and Mr. York presented the revised design for the West Acton crossing, which eliminates the overhead lights, using a narrow island on Mass Ave instead. Deemed safer than overhead lights and more aesthetically pleasing. Some parking will be lost in West Acton – 4? Spaces – would be the same with either plan.
- Pla has been approved by the BoS.
- Plan improves Acton's whistle ban ratio.

Station Cleanup

- Mr. Campbell wants SATSAC to organize a cleanup of the station. Options for assistance were discussed: Scout troop service project? Teens and junior high service projects? Eagle Scout project? or other service opportunities? Virtual community service bulletin board at the high school?
- Suggestion that we try to get something organized before this winter.

MAPC Update:

- The MAPC project has started. A representative from MAPC was at station on 9/13 doing car counts, observing traffic patterns, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM

The next SATSAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10/20

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Siska

Links:

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

<http://www.littletonma.org/content/49/3594/5590/default.aspx> is Littleton's MBTA Commuter Rail Advisory Committee.

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