

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - final

Acton Senior Center

28 February, 2013

Committee Members Present:

- David Martin
- Clare Siska
- Pat Clifford
- Sean Hanley
- Michaela Moran

Committee Members Not Present:

- Tom Campbell

Other Attendees:

- Katie Green, candidate for Selectman
- Corey York, Town Engineer
- Pam Cochran, Sidewalk Committee

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

1. Review of meeting minutes

- January 8, 2013 Deferred
- February 7, 2013 Approved unanimously. (Ms. Clifford moved; Mr. Hanley seconded)

2. Comments from the Public

- none

3. Construction update – (concerns, schedule, disruptions, etc.) – finding out about upcoming construction

- Mr. Martin reports there is no news on the schedule or construction/progress meetings; Paul Hadley indicated in email to Mr. Martin that information should be available in ~ 2 weeks.
- Two office trailers have been brought onto the Montourri land but are not yet hooked up to electricity
- The committee speculates that we will see activity some time in March.
- Ms. Clifford reminds the committee to keep the parking meter fund on our radar. Management of that fund is not yet determined and many groups in town are looking to use the revenue, including SATSAC (for elevator maintenance) TAC (for the shuttle); engineering (for deferred maintenance, lighting, parking lot paving and striping), etc.
- Noted that if any number of meters are lost during construction, there is revenue loss at least temporarily.

4. Publicity –website updates; Beacon guest column, Q&A, or alerts

- Ms. Clifford suggests we invite MBTA reps to come to a SATSAC meeting in the near future and to encourage neighborhood/public attendance. She further suggested that similar meetings take place at six month intervals.
- Mr. Martin wants this to happen when there is a more concrete schedule

- Mr. Martin will approach Paul Hadley & Joe Nolan with proposed dates: April 11 was suggested (2 meetings hence)
- Publish the meeting in the Beacon and Patch, on our website and send to neighborhood email lists
- We are looking for construction information through 2013; beyond that is too speculative.
- Mr. Martin has started working on the website; need to get initial information in before construction starts.
- Margaret Smith, editor of the Beacon – is open to publicity ideas, including a big article, weekly posts, etc.
- SATSAC has no interest in doing an historical article. We want to deal with current impacts, practicalities.
- Town Meeting – Plan for a table for first two nights. Ms. Siska will contact Eva Szkaradek, town clerk, to reserve table. We assume we will have schedule/construction information by then. Will need to plan these materials at next meeting. Mr. Martin will staff the town meeting table; need a second volunteer (TBD).
- Mr. Hanley suggested electronic signs – will the MBTA provide them? Or do use town ones? Example: Maple Street access closed starting < date>. Contact for electronic signs is now the Highway department; no longer Mark Hald.
- Could the MBTA’s red LED sign be used for construction information? Probably not, but could inquire if we can get information posted on station 1630 as advertised on the LED sign.
- Doug Haley has been talking to McCourt Construction about using the Minutevan for the required shuttle service during construction.

5. Maple Street Traffic Calming – consider traffic study and shorter-term solutions

- Mr. Campbell prepared a document describing various options, pros and cons
- Mr. York recommends we include Roland Bartl because of planning department’s involvement with ARRT; Mr. Bartl declined a recent invitation from SATSAC to discuss this issue.
- Mr. York suggests that the large number of indeterminate variables make it too early to consider solution: ARRT (stuck at 25% design because of issues in Maynard); MBTA construction; possible train schedule changes, possible parking area on the Montourri lot; sidewalk construction; unknown changes to traffic volume and flow as a result of south side access.
- Mr. York is reluctant to do a full blown traffic study with so many unknowns. Traffic studies look at current conditions and proposed changes and make *assumptions* of what will happen, but other unforeseen factors can make significant differences in the actual impact.
- The committee questioned how quickly we would be able to react if/when we start observing problems Less dramatic, low impact changes, such as restriping or the use of cones are conceivably possible. Mr. York would be our initial contact. More complex changes, such as ticketable issues, require public input and Board of Selectmen involvement.
- Two distinct issues – “post-construction” and “during construction”
- For post-construction changes, we concluded we should wait to end of construction to address them.
- During construction, we stay in touch with MBTA, use electronic signs and other ways of notification.

6. Maple Street Sidewalk – proposal for north side Main Street to station entrance

- Ms. Cochran had floated this idea at the most recent Sidewalk Committee meeting; she reports that the Sidewalk Committee was open to the idea.
- Ms. Clifford moved that SATSAC formally request that the Sidewalk Committee consider the addition of a sidewalk on the north side of Maple Street, from the junction of Rt 27 to the new

south side station entrance. Ms. Siska seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Martin will write a letter to the Sidewalk Committee to this effect.

- The Stow Street sidewalk is not expected to be constructed in 2013; however, additional street lights were approved improve lighting in that area.

7. Coordination – TAC, EDC, Sidewalk, ARRT, etc.

- No discussion.

8. Future Meetings, Calendar events over the next several months.

- Upcoming SATSAC Committee Meetings
 - 03/21/13
 - 04/11/13
 - 5/2 or 5/9
 - + tbd after that
- Requests for future discussions:
 - Consideration of landscaping and post-construction restoration
 - Bike lockers and general maintenance of the whole area (Cost of lockers = \$20 – 25K, MBTA provides the pads.)
 - Ramping up for new metering system during construction.
 - Police requests for added security measures, such as a medical call box on the platform.
 - Once the south side is done – look to the next town meeting for appropriations for the south side

9. Adjourn

Mr. Hanley moved to adjourn. Ms. Siska seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Siska

Links:

<http://www.acton-ma.gov/satsac> 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.

<http://groups.google.com/group/South-Acton-Rail-Chat?lnk=srg&hl=en> – South Acton Rail Chat