

South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee
Meeting minutes - APPROVED
Town Hall, Room 126
July 25, 2013

Committee Members Present:

David Martin
Clare Siska
Michaela Moran
Pat Clifford
Sean Hanley
Tom Campbell
John Sonner (BoS liaison)
Corey York (Town of Acton)

Committee Members Not Present:

None

Other Attendees:

Michael Baskin
Chris Kurland
David Honn AHDC
Bill Davies, citizen

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

1. Design Review with MBTA architect

Mr. Martin introduced Michael Baskin, the lead architect for the train station construction project. Mr. Baskin discussed the progress of the station project to-date, provided a brief recap of the evolution of the actual present design of this structure, and reviewed the site plan and construction working drawings.

Mr. Baskin proposed his three options for the color scheme of the structure using the station elevation drawings to exemplify his schemes. The options are as follows;

Alternate 1 – Aged copper roof, black structural steel components, dark grey siding

Alternate 2 – Aged copper roof, black structural steel components, dark grey siding, with lighter grey highlights on the tower structure

Alternate 3 – Aged copper roof, black structural steel components, dark grey siding, with lighter grey horizontal band mid-structure around the building

*** all choices include the purple commuter rail accent/highlight scheme***

-Following Mr. Baskin's presentation, Mr. Hanley and Mrs. Siska asked if the 'aged copper' roof was the only choice, as it looks neither aged, nor copperish. They were informed that the 'aged copper' color choice had somehow become favored by the palette choosers at the MBTA, and that in fact, it is the official roof color of the entire Fitchburg Line.

-Mr. Honn described a recent presentation given in Acton regarding accurate and appropriate color schemes for historic structures, and conveyed his sentiment that black, and various shades of grey are very appropriate historically, and had no objection with the overall motif presented by Mr. Baskin.

-The general feeling is that there weren't as many choices as we were expecting.

-There was discussion regarding whether the downspouts would be left with plain galvanizing, or painted to match the color scheme of the building.

-It was decided that the group favored Alternate 2. Mr. Hanley read a description of the group consensus, Mrs. Siska made the motion, and Mr. Campbell seconded. A vote was taken on the following;

“Approve Alternate 2 with the 'aged copper' roof, lighter grey window mullions, lighter grey accents on the elevator tower components, darker grey skin (siding) material, black structural steel, and ascot white interior”

-The motion passed unanimously

A second motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Siska regarding the painting of the downspouts to match the color of the body of the building. It reads as follows;

“SATSAC requests that the MBTA affect a change order to specify that the downspouts are provided with a factory paint finish similar to that of the body of the building”

-The vote passed with only Mr. Martin and Mr. Hanley against

2. Landscaping – with Historic District Commission or alternatives

Deferred discussion

3. Construction Status/Issues

Noise complaints have subsided for the most part, although Saturday 7am train crew has been described as somewhat less than receptive to neighbors' concerns

4. Publicity: Beacon Guest column, alerts

None

5. Coordination – TAC, Sidewalk, ARRT, etc.

- TAC at Farmer's Market – Tom sent Franny an email regarding participation on Oct. 20. Tom thinks they will probably join us
- Mr. Sonner reminded us that the informative historical graphic panels provided by the MBTA on the platform will need coordination regarding content. Michaela

will try and find someone from the Acton Historical Society to suggest content. Need to find out when the panels need to be produced, how many panels there are, ad space, etc.

- Concerns were raised regarding the Montourri property parking. There needs to be coordination with the Assabet River Rail Trail and the MBTA and the Town of Acton. Not sure of whom is taking the lead on Montourri use? Much discussion and consternation regarding this issue. General feeling that the process **MUST** be more transparent, and SATSAC has to be as involved as the rest of the players. Mr. York has ensured us that he will show us any examples of Montourri property use as they develop.

6. Review and accept prior meeting minutes

moved and approved]

7. Future Meetings

- Next meeting August 29

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sean P. Hanley
Reluctant Scribe