

Katie Green

After our tour of the Morrison Farm House, I attended a meeting of the **Morrison Farm Committee**. Earlier in the night, the Committee toured the area around Ice House Pond where they intend to build a boardwalk/walking path and the potential site for the reconfigured parking lot. During their meeting, the group discussed how to site the boardwalk around Ice House Pond, what material it should be, etc. The group is leaning towards having a boardwalk for the whole length instead of a mixture of boardwalk and pavement. They will get further information on the options at the next meeting, including how far the currently allocated funding will take the walk if it's all boardwalk. The group also discussed the plan for reconfiguring the parking by Ice House Pond. The current proposal was for 27 spaces but there was some concern that it was too many and that the spaces would go unused. The group agreed to get permits for 27 spots but only build 18 for now and then assess the need going forward.

I also attended a meeting of the **Acton Nursing Services Task Force**. The group is working to put together a report on their work and a set of recommendations for the Board. The report will focus on the work they've done relating to marketing, finances, and network development. We will schedule the ANSTF to come before the Board and review the report sometime in September. They have also created an FAQ and Answers document that they will distribute and put on the ANS website.

On Thursday, I joined Franny and Janet at the groundbreaking for Phase 2A of the **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**. The groundbreaking took place in NARA where the trail will intersect with walking path around the pond. Phase 2A will extend the BFRT from Westford through Carlisle and Acton almost to the Concord rotary. The event was well attended with supporters and friends of the BFRT, town staff, local elected officials from Acton and neighboring communities, Representative Benson, Senator Eldridge, officials from MassDOT and other state agencies, and Secretary of Transportation, Stephanie Pollack. The speeches and ceremonial groundbreaking were followed by a lunch provided by Friends of the BFRT.

That night, I attended the **Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee** meeting. The Committee heard the final three school improvement plans from the high school and Blanchard and Conant elementary schools. The AB SpedPAC also provided an update on their work over the past year. The Committee had another long discussion of the proposed changes to their bus passing policy. A number of parents and local business owners spoke, most against modifying the policy. Ultimately, the committee voted to approve procedural changes starting in the upcoming school year and a change to the policy to only allow for bus passing to existing homes on the route and licensed daycare facilities starting in the 2016-2017 school year. The Committee also had an update on the upcoming existing conditions study. They have selected a firm who will start work on the study shortly. They also gave an overview of the Superintendent's evaluation; he received a proficient in most categories. The Finance Director also gave an update on the FY15 budget. Currently, they are forecasting a \$13k surplus at the end of the fiscal year however there are a number of remaining pieces still sorting themselves out.

Peter J. Berry

SATSAC Meeting - Updated station construction progress, schedule, noise and issues. Discussion about landscaping plan; MBTA will only pay for minimal landscaping. Questions about whether the Town would be willing to supplement landscaping funds. Parking issues discussed; including main parking layout, rail trail lot, and Richards' property possibility. Committee voted on a list of improvements to send to Senator Eldridge's office in response to request for proposed use of MBTA capital funds. Discussed new train schedules, including reverse commute.

- Complete Streets initiative for walking, driving, bicycling, or public transport
- Increased train service (additional train set for the line)
- Improve intersections around the station, especially Main & Central and Main & Maple
- Maple, Martin, & Stow Street traffic safety
- Rail Shuttle support
- Richard's property & parking lot
- Sidewalks, especially Stow St, and north side of Maple St.

Chair updated on MBTA Advisory Board meeting.

HIT - Bob Evans re elected Chair. Steve was elected clerk, we approved reinsurance at essentially the same price as FY 15 and it includes no sur-charge for any specific individuals.

Janet K. Adachi

Acton Boxborough Cultural Council, Monday, 6/29 – Presentation to owner of one-room Schoolhouse No. 2 on Picnic Street, Boxborough of flags to replace those stolen in 2014 burglary, during which thieves took not only flags but brass bell mounted outside by entrance, quill pens and inkwells, slate boards. Replacement flags made to order by American company, included one 48-star flag and two 50-star flags. Last summer, Boxborough Police Department replaced brass bell. School privately owned and maintained, regularly welcomes tour groups of 2nd-graders.

Conservation Commission, Wednesday, 7/1 – Agenda includes formal request for authorization to deploy Community-Preservation-Acton-funded water-chestnut-removal equipment in Ice House Pond and Robbins Mill Pond.

Finance Committee – Tuesday, 6/30 – New-member orientation by Steve Noone and Doug Tindal, providing overview of FinComm's responsibilities and budget-development process, including terminology, budget-drivers, recurring issues such as reserves-use.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail groundbreaking, Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area, Thursday, 6/25 – Ms. Green spoke, Ms. Osman, Ms. Adachi, Town Manager, other Town staff members present. Ms. Adachi biked to and from event on Acton-Carlisle scenic back roads.

Other:

Classical quartet, Thursday, 6/18, 6:30 pm, NARA –Concert by members from "A Far Cry," performing Beethoven, Puccini, Schubert string quartets.

"Virtual Villages" presentation, 6/22, Senior Center – Presentation by Lexington resident about Lexington At Home program, which enables aging resident-members to remain in homes; for modest annual fee members provide volunteer transportation, handyman, other services to each other. Other models: Beacon Hill program, which requires more substantial annual fee and uses paid service-providers; and Carleton-Willard At Home program, with meals, transportation, other services offered to resident-members in Bedford, Concord, Carlisle, Lexington, Lincoln, Winchester.

495/Metrowest Partnership, Water Resources Committee, Tuesday, 6/30, 8:30 am – Presentation about comments submitted to Environmental Protection Agency about draft stormwater permit (regulations) that EPA released 9/2014: 69 MA municipalities were among commenters along with MA Department of Environmental Protection, MA Municipal Association and other organizations for a total of over 1K pages of comments. Final permit expected in 2016. Presentation about potential legal grounds for disputing EPA authority to mandate more exacting water quality effluent limits. Other news: MA Department of Agriculture recently promulgated regulations pursuant to 1/2014 MA law regulating agricultural and non-agricultural use of fertilizers; new regulations restrict use of phosphorus on non-agricultural turf and lawns. See accompanying MDAR Factsheet.

Franny Osman

-Senior Center Study Committee- Survey Subgroup met a few times in the last few weeks, designing a survey. Some outstanding questions are whether to include an online version; what subset of Acton households should receive the survey in the mail; question design.

-Metropolitan Area Planning Council- Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC, MAPC) – Conference call with administrator, chair, and other co-vice-chair of MAGIC re: Climate Change Adaptation Strategy working group which is in formation and to be launched with September kickoff event. We would like to include some other groups besides MAPC, and we will look for one rep from each MAGIC municipality for the working group.