

#5
Extra Information
9/14/09

From: Bruce Stamski
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2008 10:14 AM
To: Manager Department
Cc: Engineering Department; Information Technology Department; Police Department
Subject: Parking Rates at the Commuter Lot.

Steve,
As your are aware the MBTA has recently raised its parking rates to \$4.00/day at its commuter rail facilities.
The Town of Concord, effective 11/15/08, has followed suit at its West Concord Facility. There are three separate parking rates to consider; the Acton Resident Only Sticker Rates, the Meter Rates and the Reserved Parking Space Rates at Jones Field.

Acton Resident Only Sticker Program.

There are 155 spaces in the main lot, 24 spaces in the Exchange Hall Lot and 29 spaces behind the South Acton Fire Station for a total of 208 spaces designated as Acton Resident Only Spaces. There are presently 430 active Acton Resident Only stickers issued at \$50.00/year. I check from time to time and usually find 5 to 10 spaces open behind the South Acton Fire Station. During the first week in November, when winter parking restrictions kicked in at the Railroad Street Lot, the police found an increase in illegal (i.e. non-resident) use of the Fire Station Lot. Their active enforcement has reduced this problem. Presently it appears we are meeting the needs of the Acton Resident Only Sticker holders. This will change when the Exchange Hall Parking Lot is removed from use by commuters. Presently sticker holders accept the fact that may have to use the inconvenient Fire Station Lot or not find a space because the price is low. A raise in sticker price will come with the expectation of having a space available for use.

The Metered Rates

There are 107 metered spaces. These spaces are filled by the 7:18 express train. If the Town decided to raise rates or not, the impact on traffic will not change as the spaces are always filled and probably will remain filled even at the higher rate. I sent a separate email concerning the condition of our parking meters yesterday and possible solutions. The coin operated meters are 15 years old and will need to be replaced sooner or later. I would suggest a raise in the rates be coupled with an upgrade of our collection system. There are systems were you can pay with credit cards or even call in via cell phone to avoid having to pay at a central meter. The increase in revenue should provide a 2-3 year payback on the investment.

Jones Field Rates

The decision by the Selectmen was to have the guaranteed spaces at Jones Field cost the same as the spaces in the main parking lot. The right to a guaranteed spot offsets the inconvenience of the location. If the metered spots in the lot are raised, the fees for these spaces should also be raised.

Bruce
