

To: Board of Selectman  
From: South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee  
Re: Parking Rate Recommendation  
Date: 03 June 2016

SATSAC met on Thursday 26 May to hear input from the public on the proposed parking rate increase. Corey York made a presentation about the parking facilities and proposal to increase the daily parking rate from \$2.50 to \$5.00, with proportional increases of other rates.

Most of the input that the committee heard was concerned about matters like bicycle access and problems with traffic patterns. Both at the meeting via email, there were just a few comments against the increase. Some people pointed out that it would be a double whammy with the MBTA fare increases in July. (SATSAC regularly receives input from residents that there is insufficient parking.)

After the public input, SATSAC discussed the proposed rate increase including the following points:

- The doubling of the rate will be a burden for some, but that it's been over 10 years since there was a parking rate increase.
- The \$5 rate is required to cover expenses, especially potential acquisition of additional parking.
- The rate should not be lower than surrounding towns, so that the draw does not continue to stress limited parking availability at the S. Acton station. The combined daily rate and rail fares are: \$13.50 one way from W. Concord, \$13.75 one way from Littleton, \$22.00 round trip from W. Concord, and \$23.50 round trip from Littleton. A \$5 rate at S. Acton would assure that Acton is not cheaper than surrounding towns.
- New marking machines will be installed at the station as soon as the station construction is out of the way. It would be nice if the parking rate changed at the same time.

The discussion also noted that there is a purpose behind each of the current types of rates in the rate structure

- The Jones Field program was structured to assure availability of parking for the ball field and playground. In addition, the reserved parking program discourages trolling for available parking in the neighborhood.
- The resident sticker program assures that residents have a greater opportunity to get a space, which is extremely important to residents. There would be less access to parking for residents, if all the spaces were metered.

In the end, the committee voted to reaffirm its previous recommendation to the selectman. SATSAC supports the \$5/day meter rate recommendation and the proportional increases for other rates as proposed by the Town Engineer. In addition, SATSAC recommends that Acton keep the \$5 base rate steady for 5 years, and that Acton keep the current types of parking rates in each designated area.

Respectfully submitted,

David Martin, chair  
South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee