

From: dmartin88@live.com on behalf of [David Martin](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Cc: [South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee](#)
Subject: Parking Rate Recommendation
Date: Monday, June 06, 2016 1:41:22 PM
Attachments: [BoS160531.docx](#)

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

From: [Robert Douth](#)
To: [Manager Department](#)
Subject: Proposed rate increases for the South Acton Train Station commuter lot.
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:16:18 AM

Hi,

I am a Stow resident and the proposed rate increase for non-residents to \$5.00 is fair. One issue that I don't see addressed is how to pay. With the suspension of the parking cards last year, I now have to make sure I have a good supply of quarters on hand and sufficient time to feed the meter - and sometimes write a note on those occasions when the meter is jammed or fails to register.

Can you share the plan for payment options? If it's going to be limited to feeding meters with quarters, then that would be an issue for me.

Thanks

Robert Douth
978-793-2987

From: [Peter J. Berry](mailto:Peter.J.Berry)
To: brookemanfredi@gmail.com; [South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee](#)
Cc: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Re: Parking
Date: Friday, June 03, 2016 6:25:25 AM

Ms. Mandredi: I am the Selectman liaison to SATSAC. We received your email. SATSAC held a public forum to allow citizen input on the proposed parking rate increase and voted to recommend that the Selectmen implement the increase.

The Selectmen will consider and vote on the parking increase at our meeting on June 20. The Board will consider your email comments and encourages you to attend and express your opinions in person .

Thank you for your input.

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

----- Original Message -----

From: brookemanfredi@gmail.com
To: SATSAC
Sent: June 2, 2016 at 11:07 PM
Subject: Re: Parking

Was this email received?

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 25, 2016, at 3:17 PM, Brooke Manfredi <brookemanfredi@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Committee Members -

>

> I saw a notice at the train station this morning that there is a proposal to double the annual parking fee for Acton residents and significantly increase the parking fee for non-residents. I regret that I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow, so I am writing instead.

>

> I am very much opposed to the significant increases in the fees for both Acton residents and non-residents. For those of us who use the train to commute, we are already facing a significant increases in the cost of a monthly commuter rail pass in July (currently \$289 - will be \$318, for an increase of \$350(!) per year). I understand that the parking fee has not increased in many years, but a doubling of the rate seems excessive, and is a particularly difficult pill to swallow on top of the significant increased cost of a train pass.

>

> I also feel that \$2.50/day for our non-resident neighbors is already fairly steep, and does not need to be increased further.

>

> It is hard for me to understand the rationale for charging parking fees at all.

Shouldn't we be encouraging Acton residents and residents of neighboring towns to take the train, getting more cars off the road? Driving anywhere during rush hour is impossible as it is - Route 2 backs up for miles, 117 moves at a turtle's pace, etc. Not to mention the environmental and health benefits of reducing driving and encouraging public transportation. In a suburban town such as ours, we should be able to provide parking at low or no cost to those commuters who choose public transportation.

>

> I am also curious about the town's efforts to expand parking. In looking back at the minutes, it appears that the town is exploring various options, but nothing is really moving forward. All of the local lots are often completely full before 7:30. (I usually take the 7:07 and need to park at the farthest lot - by the fire station.) I do not need to be at work until 9am and would love to take advantage of a later train (especially now that the MBTA has added a later express train), but this is impossible given the extreme shortage of available spaces. I am baffled by many residents' concern that adding parking spaces will increase traffic. If you look at the number of people who take the train versus the number of spaces, it is clear that hundreds of commuters are being dropped off and picked up at the station each day. To me, it seems that adding parking spots should actually *reduce* traffic as many of those riders could make one round trip to the station instead of two.

>

> I also have a difficult time understanding the concerns of those who worry that expanding parking in any significant way (e.g., by building a multistory garage) will be an eyesore that will change the character of the neighborhood. This is a fairly wooded area, and the train station is relatively tucked away.

>

> Thank you for considering my concerns.

>

> Brooke M.

From: [Kristina Rychlik](#)
To: [Board of Selectmen](#)
Subject: Proposed commuter lot parking increases
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 2:44:04 PM

Hello all -

I used to commute from Acton to Cambridge by train on occasion, and my husband has commuted from Acton to either Boston or Cambridge by train for most of the last twenty-one years. While I appreciate the need for additional revenue for the commuter lot, and the desire to have fees in Acton be competitive with surrounding commuter lots, I am not in support of the increase for one reason.

There always has been and there continues to be insufficient resident parking at the lot. Therefore, we, and perhaps other residents, maintain both a resident sticker and a preloaded parking card, to pay for parking on the many days the lot is full. Therefore, the parking increase seems a frustrating double whammy for residents; we pay for a sticker, pay for metered parking, and still often cannot get a spot at the station.

I have often felt that residents with permits should be allowed to park in the meters without charge if all the resident spots are full. Of course, you may not agree...but thought I'd share.

Thanks for all you do! Kristina

Kristina W. Rychlik
7 Captain Forbush Lane
Acton, MA 01720-2940
krychlik@mac.com
978.263.7895 phone
978.635.1034 fax
781.710.5946 mobile