

Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2020
7:30 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Franny Osman (Chair), Paula Walsh, Julia Day and James Citro

Absent: Luke Evans

Invited Guests: Nirupamer Valankar (Acton Council of Aging Board Representative), Karen Dumaine (Cross Town Connect liaison), Austin Cyganiewicz (Town of Acton, Director of Governmental Affairs) and Cameron Cousins (Green Advisory Board-GAB)

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the Transportation Advisory Committee meetings of July 22, 2020 and October 28, 2020 were reviewed and approved by a vote of 4-0, with typographical amendments.
- B. Austin Cyganiewicz updated the committee on the following:
 - a. The town has received several positive feedback notes from residents using the transportation services, in particular, dispatchers were complimented.
 - b. Ridership has been good; there was a slight increase throughout the Fall.
 - c. A request was made that the monthly ridership statistics be provided to TAC; Mr. Cyganiewicz will post them on the Acton Website so TAC and the general public can access the information.
 - d. The state has some new funding programs coming out as well as the current programs still in place. Applications for funding (i.e. Making Connections Pilot Program) will hopefully help fund the transportation gaps in Acton.
 - e. The Intermunicipal Agreement expired in October, however a majority of the 5 member towns have agreed to a short term extension of the agreement due to Covid. Westford has decided to not participate in the short term extension but is interested in future negotiations.
 - f. Acton has been awarded a 2.7 million dollar grant to fund infrastructure projects in the Powdermill Road area, such as roadways, rail trail, sewer connections, waterway projects, etc. A formal announcement will be made in the near future.
- C. Bike Trails Update:
 - a. The Landline group, a signage and wayfinding project aimed to connect communities by bike and pedestrians has had a name change and is now called Nashoba Regional Greenways.
 - b. TAC continues to seek a dedicated bike advocate to join the committee.

D. Sidewalks Update:

a. Taylor Road:

- i. Resident David Spector shared a discussion he had with the neighbor at 84 Taylor Road. The owner reportedly has reached a tentative agreement with the town. However, according to David, the owner is selling the property and would like the new owner to finalize the agreement with the town.
- ii. Mr. Spector was not able to contact the owner of 79 Taylor, but Franny Osman was able to share information provided by Cory York, Director of Facilities for the Town of Acton. A deed was filed this past week for this property which allowed contact information to be obtained, a letter to the current homeowner has been sent and the town is waiting for a response.

3. New/Special Business

A. Green Advisory Board:

- a. Cameron Cousins, a member of the Green Advisory Board (GAB) introduced herself to TAC. GAB would like to collaborate on future overlapping projects with TAC and outlined some details from past years on the vehicle statistics for the town and GAB's main objectives:
 - i. Primary Goal: Address the Greenhouse Gas Community Emissions by reducing the number of gas vehicles on the road and expand the Complete Streets Program.
 - ii. Secondary Goal: Bring emissions to zero by increasing electric vehicle incentives, increasing the use of municipal and school electric vehicles, and enforcement of anti-idling laws.
- b. Franny Osman raised the question of how to increase the charging stations for electric vehicles and whether the town is able to address any potential idling by current vehicles to address the issue. Ms. Cousins did point out a loophole in the idling law that allows for extended periods of idling to keep warm during freezing weather.

B. Council of Aging Update:

- a. Ms. Valankar was able to update TAC on an attempt by a developer to obtain an easement through the parking lot of 30 Sudbury Road for construction of a new housing complex. The 30 Sudbury Road site is the location for the Acton Senior Center as well as a various other town departments including Acton Nursing and Social Services. Even though the building is closed at present to indoor activities, meals on wheels program, the senior lunch programs and a variety of outdoor activities have continued. The Council of Aging Board feels approval of such an easement allowing construction vehicles through the already crowded parking lot would pose a safety issue.
- b. Franny Osman asked that the topic be place on the next TAC meeting agenda.

C. Drive Through Survey:

- a. The town has been seeking public sentiment on expanding the exemptions to the current ban to include other types of businesses besides banks.
- b. Julia Day was able to share the town website showing the survey findings.

D. Next meeting scheduled for January 27, 2021 at 7:30

4. Adjournment

At 9:05 p.m., it was moved by James Citro and seconded by Paula Walsh to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of July 22, 2020 and October 28, 2020
- Website: <http://doc-acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-74591/Driveup%20survey%20Results.pdf>
- Slide presentation by Cameron Cousins