



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023
5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Zhengyu Huang, Franny Osman (joined at 6:05 pm), Paula Walsh,

Absent: There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests: Emi Azar- Council of Aging Liaison; ; Chris Brandon-potential new TAC member

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Tabled

B. Shared Concerns:

- a. A School Street resident raised the concern about speeding on School Street. There is a mobile radar sign currently in place on the East bound side of the street near number 139, but not on the West bound use where there is a hill and curve blocking view of the driveway at number 144. The resident has also contacted the police department who informed her that the highway department decides where these signs are positioned. The road is reportedly also in need of repaving not just patching. There is reportedly a noise issue due to a dugout section of the road when large vehicles hit that dugout. The resident is asking that TAC advocate that the current mobile radar unit be moved to the West bound side of the road near number 144. She requests that any letters be cc'd to Lieutenant Ed Lawton of the Acton Police Department that has been her contact person (ELawton@acton-ma.gov) and to the Engineering Department.

3. New/Special Business:

- A. Engineering update: QinRui Pang from the Town Engineering Department was not able to attend tonight's meeting. Zhengyu had wanted to ask her to update the committee about Adam's Street currently listed as Tier 3. Rama reiterated that the tier designation did not mean the street project was less important, only that it was added



- to the list after the preceding tiers. Zhengyu is concerned that the Parker, High and Adam's intersection is a dangerous one.
- B. A resident potentially interested in becoming a member of TAC was present this evening and briefly introduced himself. Chris Brandon was a Civil Engineer in his past career.
 - C. Select Board update by Jim Snyder-Grant: NRG proposal (Nashoba Regional Greenway agreement) has not been approved yet. Jim will follow up with the Town Manager and hopefully get that on the Select Board agenda for October 16, 2023
 - D. Taxi Service: Franny was able to update the committee that there continues to be confusion within the community as to what hours the Taxi Service is available as well as how to access it. Several TAC members reported having seen signs posted at various locations around town including the Senior Center and Town Hall. There are also flyers with QR codes to access information on the Taxi Service.
 - E. Disability Picnic Event scheduled for an upcoming weekend. Franny asked if it might be possible to get a van for the event as it is a very different experience to have access to a van to transport an estimated 5-6 people compared to individual taxi rides.
 - F. Shuttle Services: Franny voiced an opinion that TAC may be helpful in lobbying for the return of the earlier train shuttle. This will be added to the future agenda.
 - G. Grant Writer: there was discussion about whether the town might benefit from a dedicated Grant writer. Preliminary budget to be presented to the Select Board by December. Table this discussion until after the preliminary budget has been presented.
 - H. Council on Aging: Emi described a new program for Seniors to read to kindergarten to 3rd grade students. She will inquire if the Senior Van can be used to transport Seniors to the schools for the program.
 - I. Safe Routes to School Grant: Town Manager sent an email to Rama about whether this grant may be of interest to the town. Rama responded that it could potentially be beneficial for Musket and Jefferson. It is a \$10,000 reimbursement.

At 6:44 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Franny Osman. Roll call was done, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Acronyms:

ADA= Americans with Disability Act

ARPA= American [COVID-19] Recovery Program Act

Boston MPO= Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization, the part of MassDOT that disburses federal transportation funds

BAG= Bicycle Advisory Group (formed January 2021)

CMAQ= Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

COD= Commission on Disabilities

COVID= Novel Coronavirus 2019 causing a worldwide pandemic in 2020

CTPS= Central Transportation Planning Staff, within the Boston MPO, within MassDOT

**Landline= a signage and wayfinding project to connect communities by bike and pedestrian, by MAPC and MassTrails of MassDOT.*



MAGIC= Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination, which is our 13-town subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MAPC= Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MassDOT=Massachusetts Department of Transportation

MBTA= Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

NRG=Nashoba Regional Greenways Coalition

SATSAC= South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

TAC= Transportation Advisory Committee

TMA= Transportation Management Association