

## Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes  
October 28, 2020  
7:30 pm  
Virtual held via Zoom

**Present:** Franny Osman (Chair), Julia Day, Paula Walsh, Jim Citro

Board of Selectmen: Joan Gardner

**Absent:** Luke Evans

Invited guests: Karen Dumaine, Liaison from Cross Town Connect and Nirupamer Valankar, Council of Aging Board Representative

### 1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

### 2. Regular Business

#### A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- a. The meeting minutes from the Transportation Advisory Committee meetings of July 22, 2020 and June 24, 2020 will be delayed until the next meeting.
- b. The meeting minutes from the TAC meeting of September 23, 2020 were reviewed and approved 3-0 (Paula was not present at the meeting and abstained)

#### B. Citizen Concerns:

- a. Claire Siska raised several topics:
  - i. A reminder that the Stow Street sidewalk was prioritized 4 years ago.
  - ii. Asked if there were any updates on the town Engineer status.
  - iii. As for the proposed dog park on Main Street, parking closer to the gazebo is still under review.
  - iv. Franny was able to respond that the Smart Street Grant Program is a state request and that Jim Citro has been in contact with Cory York, the town's Public Facilities Director to offer TAC assistance if desired. The sidewalk feasibility study is ongoing according to Cory at their most recent meeting.
- b. Dave Spector:
  - i. Asked for an update on the proposed sidewalk on Taylor Road, specifically, from the schools to Minot Street, Schools to Taylor to Monor to Barker Road.
  - ii. Franny was able to provide that the Engineering department proceeds with sidewalks at those segments where they have approval while still negotiating with remaining homeowners where easements or swaps are necessary. The draft of the segments of the project was shared on screen and Dave was encouraged to speak with the neighbors at 79 & 84 who are

still in negotiations to see if he can answer any questions or maybe encourage the to agree.

- C. Sidewalk Priority List, updated by Franny Osman:
  - a. High Street, Valley Road, Parker Street: partially shovel ready and legal documents.
  - b. Main Street-information has been sent to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.
  - c. Taylor Road
  - d. Request will be made that Corey please add cost estimates to the sidewalk draft.
- D. Board of Selectmen Update by Joan Gardner:
  - a. Public survey on train station use
  - b. Public survey on drive up windows
  - c. Franny will add to the next TAC agenda that TAC will provide a joint statement on both proposals.
- E. Administrative:
  - a. TAC member Luke Evans will be taking a break from TAC due to a family related issue.
- F. Austin Cyganiewicz (Intergovernmental Representative for the Town of Acton) could not be present this evening but sent the following updates:
  - a. Town continues to operate on demand services. Ridership has continued to increase through the Summer and Fall with maximum of 2-3 riders per trip. It continues to be recommended to book 24 hours in advance.
  - b. Scott Zuchadis's role at CrossTown Connect is changing and Karen Dumaine will be our new liaison with CTC.
  - c. Funding applications are still pending as some details in the applications were not specific enough. Additional information is being prepared.
  - d. Plan to reinstate the CAT is under review.
- G. Karen Dumaine update:
  - a. Karen introduced herself and her goals as CTC liaison including:
    - i. Scheduling meetings with various municipalities to determine their needs
    - ii. Identify employer needs for the Commuter Program and how to help them return employees to work safely
    - iii. Sustainable commuting
    - iv. Commuter challenges including health and wellness issues.
    - v. Outreach to new business partners
    - vi. Assist with application for Taxi (Making Connections) Grant application- Franny recommended that she contact Laura Dusharme (Acton Social Services Department) with assistance for the application.
- H. Microtransit:
  - a. Franny provided an update on the experiences of other local towns that have already implemented Uber and Lyft into their transportation services.
- I. Citizen Transportation questions:

- a. A member of the public, Kim Robson asked if there would be transportation for voting. Karen Dumaine responded, yes, but that medical appointments would take priority.
- b. Ms. Robson also inquired about the resumption of the Fixed Route vans (CAT). Both Franny and Karen referred her Austin's statement that this topic was still under review.

J. Bike:

- a. No updates
- b. TAC is still looking for a new member that is a biking advocate

K. Council on Aging

- a. No updates

L. Housing:

- a. Paula to query associations and find out their needs. Karen wants to contact these associations.

M. Train Station Sidewalk proposal:

- a. Franny would like the Committee to formalize a statement encouraging the town to approve the proposal.
- b. Note: There was an interruption in internet connection, Paula Walsh returned to the meeting at 8:42 while the proposal was still being discussed.
- c. Franny recommends a fence between the walking path and tracks for safety.
- d. TAC's priorities for the 19-21 Maple Street property would include a coffee shop and facilities. A decision to made to provide the Board of Selectmen a formal opinion.
- e. A motion was made by Paula Walsh that a letter be submitted to the Board of Selectmen that TAC would like to see access from the train station to the 19-21 Maple Street property and that a coffee shop, bathroom facilities with cleaning services be put into place. In addition, that there should be safe pedestrian access from the South platform to Martin Street. The motion was seconded by Jim Citro and was unanimously approved.

N. Crosswalk at Hayward Road:

- a. There was a citizen concern that there was a constant beeping from a crosswalk signal on Hayward and whether that could be remedied. Corey York was queried and responded that the constant beeping was intentional and is used as a beacon function by those with sight impairments.

O. Bike Advisory Group:

- a. Franny would like input from people using the bike lanes.

P. WR Grace:

- a. Not sure if feasible due to ongoing clean up at the site, but if possible, Franny moved that TAC recommend a bike throughway and commuter parking at WR Grace. Paula seconded. Approved unanimously.

### 3. New/Special Business

A. Next meeting scheduled for December 9, 2020 at 7:30 pm to be held via Zoom

#### **4. Adjournment**

At 9:06 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting**

- Meeting minutes of September 23, 2020;