

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2022
12:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Franny Osman (Chair), Rama Balakrishna, Paula Walsh

Absent: Julia Day; Note: there is an opening on the committee

Select Board Representative: Not present

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –Approval of the April 2022 minutes was tabled.
- B. Select Board Update: None
- C. Council of Aging Update by Nirupana Valankar via email report to Franny:
 - a. There was a Special Luncheon for Senior age 90+.
 - b. The Senior Center has a new feature called Senior Spotlight in its monthly newsletter where they focus on the contributions and accomplishments of an individual member to the COA and community at large. This month's senior spotlight is Marion Maxwell.
 - c. The town of Acton has funded a town nurse and provided public health and home healthcare services to Acton for the past 100 years. A well attended, 100th anniversary celebration was held at the Human Services/COA building to honor this achievement. It was a grand function.
- D. Shared Concerns:
 - a. Transportation Survey conducted by the Making the Connections: TAC members felt there was a missed opportunity in the survey by not including a third category of respondents having a vehicle but preferring to use public transportation options.
 - b. Discussion around alternative transportation options, particularly the town needing more taxi company options.
 - c. Franny will compose a letter to the town urging the town sign the Uber contract if not already signed and to sign with additional taxi companies to expand the availability of services. Paula motioned for the letter to be composed and Rama seconded. Approval was unanimous.
- E. Sidewalks:
 - a. Rama has been reviewing the criteria used by the previous Sidewalk Committee. He will share his findings at the next TAC meeting.

- b. Spreadsheet: The sidewalk project spreadsheet maintained by the engineering department maintains was not shared with TAC this month as of the day of this meeting.
- c. Select Board meeting on May 23, 2022 per Franny had numerous concerned citizens to discuss portions of the proposed River Street project. Other members of TAC hadn't seen the meeting but will do so prior to the next TAC meeting.
- d. There was overwhelming support from the citizens at the Select Board meeting for the one way proposed whereas controversy surrounded engineering issues. Rama moved and Paula seconded that Franny will submit a letter to the Select Board to approve at least the River Street One Way proposal and a second letter to the Engineering Department asking how TAC might be able to help. There was unanimous approval of the motion.
- e. Hayward and Main project was also discussed at the Select Board meeting and the hat will also be reviewed by TAC members for discussion at the next meeting.
- f. Recruitment of additional members: Rama offered to create a first draft advertisement to post at trail heads and at various locations throughout town.

3. New/Special Business

- A. MassDOT Innovation Conference was held May 24 & 25, 2022. Paula and Franny were able to attend and gave a synopsis of several sessions that were pertinent to TAC's mission.
- B. Lowell to Framingham bus line proposal: Franny has been researching grants and organizations to support such a service. The 2022 Transportation Justice Grant Funding Opportunity also known as T4MA expects to award 10-12 grants of \$7,500 to \$10,000 in June 2022. Franny found two 501 (c)3 organizations willing to serve as fiscal sponsor, Acton/Boxborough United Way and Community Teamworks (CTI) in Lowell, a non-profit community action organization. CTI being the preferred sponsor as they had identified transportation as a priority. In addition to completing the grant application, Franny is also seeking support letters from both a Framingham and a Route 495 groups.
- C. CAT schedule: the MBTA did not alter the Framingham line's schedule so no CAT schedule change is needed to coordinate with the train schedule. However, there is still felt to be a need to expand the CAT route, for example to include CVS, Ace Hardware, Windsor Street Housing, and West Acton Center. Since the Rail Van has not been reactivated since the pandemic, the possibility of using that van as a second CAT van to shorten the times with the potential extra stops. Franny will ask the town to allow us time to review the CAT schedule before any changes are made.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Franny Osman and approved unanimously, The meeting ended at 1:49 p.m.

Attachments:

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[Making the Connections_Final Survey Results_220526.pdf](#)

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

NRG=Nashoba Regional Greenways Coalition

SATSAC= South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

TAC= Transportation Advisory Committee