

## **Minutes of TAC meeting Sept. 27, 2010**

Town Hall Room 126.

Next meeting: Room 121 Town Hall, on Oct. 28, 7:30 pm.

Meeting commences 7:45 pm

In attendance:

Members Franny Osman, Bengt Muten, Jim Yarin, Michael Fisher;  
Interested and helpful citizens Nancy Shaw and Lisa Franklin

Approve minutes of previous meeting (Sep. 2)—none exist yet as Franny took paper notes and did not type them up yet.

### Report from MinuteVan Local

Problem of shortfall of funding for shuttle service for this fiscal year  
Transaction has mentioned offhand that marketing wasn't included in the whole plan nor was the cost of a coordinator. Also not included was the cost of Transaction vans that are being used instead of the town's vans. Franny said she does not understand the details of the shortfall. Michele Brooks and Steve Ledoux are on top of it.

TAC votes not to go to Special Town Meeting to ask for additional funds

Action item:

Someone will email Steve Ledoux, Transaction, and members of the BOS (Mike and Lauren) to confirm that the town will request additional money from LRTA to be allocated from the MBTA assessment and request that TAC be informed within two weeks that contact has been made.

Question to Transaction:

How many permits have been sold?

Jim Y has paid \$240 for his parking space through the end of next year.

### Review of Dial-a-ride Program Guidelines

#### **Concerns:**

How many stops in a ride?

Will van take an Acton resident from Maynard to Concord?

Why are we discouraging riders from Maynard who want to go to Acton?

Why are we discouraging shoppers?

For rides within Acton, does rider have to be a resident?

Or is it okay for one person in a group to be an Acton resident?

Could we charge a higher rate for non-residents?

What about people who need a PCA for travel?

How will proof of residence be handled?

Why is Littleton Center not on the list of destinations? Meets bus to Lowell.

Littleton and Westford are important destinations, the latter for low income. For Market Basket and bus to Lowell.

What is in Maynard that is good for low income people from Acton? (Movies, ethnic restaurants, food pantry mentioned in discussion.)

Is it flexible enough to run later on certain occasions: dance at Danny's Place, Town Meeting, . . . ?

Encourage groups with lower price for additional people in same party.

Encourage use of recreation and employment and retail in town by allowing others to come to town with the service.

Suggest allowing anyone to use the van Acton to Acton, regardless of residency.

Could be higher price for non-residents.

Under eligibility on the guidelines, suggest changing third bullet to read "All locations within the Town of Acton are acceptable origins or destinations." (had read "pick-up locations")

OK with hours as listed in guidelines for now.

Suggest that when someone buys a parking permit from the Town Clerk, the Clerk's office tells them about the shuttle. They should be able to buy permits right there.

Online purchasing should be available. Paypal. Schools use MKTix.

Charge Road Runner price if someone has a Road Runner ID.

Would a photo ID help?

Suggest having either partial year sign-ups available.

Suggest making it clear that you can get a pro-rated refund if you need to stop commuting by train or any other failure of service to work. Both of these suggestions are meant to encourage use of the service.

Suggest low-cost one-month trial.

**Marketing Ideas from TAC for MinuteVan** (some already on MinuteVan's list, we know):

-- There is a Green Flyer of van schedule for MinuteVan in the bulletin board at the train but it is exposed to the weather, needs protection.

--We need a sign in a prominent place at the station.

--Give the T flyers for the train seats or hand them to commuters.

--Give flyers to Kelley Cronin of Acton Housing Authority for residents.

--Other towns' papers: Stow, Boxborough, Harvard.

--Water bill.

--Offer one month trial.

--Chinese School.

--Oktoberfest. Skip turned down van being there (no room) but MinuteVan has table.

--Put an electric sign at South Acton Fire Station lot [Michael's notes said at West Acton lot...I am not clear what we meant. -F.O.]

--Talk to Danny's Place

--Market to other towns.

--Display ad in town warrant.

--Presence important at other town events.

--Minutevan will have a table at Energy Fair in Oct. Van itself?

--bumpersticker for marketing. something like: My other car is the MinuteVan

### North-South Bus

Action item:

Ask CTPS of MPO to do a study of north-south transportation in Acton to investigate whether a bus should go down Rt. 2a or 27 from Littleton/Westford or Chelmsford, toward Maynard and points south.

Action item:

Also go to BOS and ask them to approve TAC approaching other towns along north-south route to write letters to LRTA in effort to get bus running down Rt. 27. Bengt will take ownership. David Sharfarz has advised that method of getting north-south bus is to get letter from all towns it would pass through, to LRTA.

### Bike Rack program

Should there be a bike rack at the West Acton parking lot? Wait until next year.

There is a bike rack at the Citizens Library.

### HOPE committee update

They have a \$25K grant. \$10K has to go to a consultant and \$15K to something that helps Acton.

They have decided to do something transportation-related.

Action Item: TAC should send a note to that committee with suggestion for a way to spend money.

Money has to be spent within year.

Perhaps pay for marketing of the shuttle, production of a video. Franny mentions neighbor Christo (sp?) as producer.

Health benefits of shuttle? Getting out and about is good for mental health. Not to mention the health benefits of walking to the shuttle stop.

Train Station committee liaison: TAC needs to have representation at those meetings.

This committee meets once-a-month.

### Parking meters

Nothing has been done since last meeting

Mike Gowing has not responded to Jim

The shuttle has been going for about two months and we still have no progress toward making the change in parking meters

TAC decides to put off discussion of meter fees until later when meters are close to being purchased, noting that increases in meter fees could be unfair to lower-income residents

Action Item: Franny will send reminder email to Mike G saying TAC wants to be in the loop for decisions about parking meters

Acton item: TAC will ask for time at the next BOS meeting to report on the shuttle and discuss parking meters

Meeting adjourns at 9:20 pm

Notes submitted by Michael Fisher 9-30-10, edited by Franny Osman 9-30-10. Draft sent to TAC 9-30-10.