

## **Transportation Advisory Committee**

### **MINUTES**

**Wed June 6, 2012, 7:00 pm**

**Location: Room 121**

**Present: Fran Osman, Jim Citro, Bengt Muten, Michael Fisher, and Guest: Larry Kenah.**

#### Citizens Concerns

None expressed.

#### Administrative—

Approved minutes of previous (April 25) meeting.

#### Report on work done between meetings.

Work on bike rack is progressing. Need a P.O. to be submitted to Cheryl Ball in health department by the end of this week.

Fran is in process of making a video. On Thursday June 7<sup>th</sup> she will be recording people getting on and off the Minute Van. There's \$40,000 in town budget for next year for publicity. There have been two video sessions so far.

#### Review Site Plans- mention results of the one across from Donelans; 40B at Post Office Square

Review of responses by Stamski and McNary to concerns about project across from Donelan's. What are the specific restrictions that mean a MassDOT Road can't have a turnout. We think a bus pullout on land partly on neighborhood land and partly on MassDOT land should be explored despite the hurdles because it would be significantly safer and avoid MinuteVan having to enter the 18-ft. road.

Site Plan for Post Office Square has not yet been supplied. The site will contain 12 units. It will be near the "once-a-year" trail owned by Brewster Conant. This could prevent development of a path to route 2A.

#### Recent grant activity including CIC grant rfp interviews; Active Acton video and bike rack (Jim C's letter, Pat Clifford phone call); New Freedom and JARC; CTAA; Rotary Club

See above for update on Active Acton video and bike rack.

CIC grant of \$185,000 for five towns and clocktower. Vendor to provide the service will be selected on June 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be 13 vans serving the five communities: Acton, Maynard, Boxborough, Stow, Littleton. A sixth town--Concord--may be added. Westford also is interested in being included.

CTAA grant application (\$15,000) was not chosen for funding.

New Freedom and Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC): The town sent in three applications (worked on by Doug and Fran). One of the three was accepted: \$26,000 matched by another \$26,000 from the town. This is for a driver for the van LRTA has agreed to give us: a road-runner service in our own hands. (If Bill H-901--introduced by Jen Benson--passes, we will have money in the future from parking fees at train station. Right now the bill is on hold waiting for a third reading.) We were denied mobility money and support for dial-a-ride.

Fran's presentation at Rotary Club meeting (at Boxborough Holiday Inn) went very well. The Club gave the town \$500 for MinuteVan. This money will be converted to vouchers for people who can't afford to pay for the van. If the voucher program works, then we will go to the Lions Club and United Way for similar funding.

#### MinuteVan local

Doug Halley is serving as (acting) transportation coordinator for the town and has really boosted the van services.

There will be an added service in the afternoon. Will be redirecting one of the shuttles to high school.

Ridership in April was slightly down. Rail shuttle went up a lot. (Ridership was 432 in March, 360 in February.) Dial-a-Ride seems to have leveled off at around 300 a month. It's still only taking one person at a time. The aim is to change this with same-day requests. Ultimately want to have fixed route through the five towns. Question about availability for summer school sessions.

#### Mention of upcoming events

TAC continues to think about organizing a forum for all town committees on the subject of connecting Acton neighborhoods.

First step will be to invite Sidewalk Committee to next meeting.

Also we will review the 2020 Plan for its recommendations.

#### Membership

We want to get more bicyclists on TAC. Jim C. will contact the woman who sent us a message about bike racks.

Make use of VCC ads in Beacon to promote interest in TAC. Larry Kenah became interested in town committees after reading an article in the Beacon.

Michael F. will take responsibility for contacting BFRTA

Fran will contact Pedal Power.

Bengt will write a paragraph by next Monday to send out to these various places.

Jim C. will contact Charley Aronson at VCC for Beacon.

#### Train Station, metering, any updates

Biking issues, create timeline toward a forum including other committees. Potential speaker MarkFenton (spoke at MAPC)

See above for Bike Rack.

Mark Fenton had a show on walking on PBS. He gave a talk at MAPC on how urban design relates to getting people to move. Town manager of Maynard also liked him. Proposed that we invite Mark Fenton to speak here and use some of the \$2000 grant money from Healthy Acton to pay him and video-record his talk.

John Sonnert did not attend tonight's meeting to give us update on rail station construction. We want the T to hire MinuteVan to provide transportation for people displaced by construction.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.  
Next meeting is July 18.