

MINUTES

Town of Acton Transportation Advisory Committee

Wed. April 24, 2013
Room 121, Town Hall
730 pm

Present: Jim Citro, Bengt Muten, Franny
Osman; BOS rep Mike Gowing; Rec
Commissioner Joe Will came for 8:40 part

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MEETING NOTES

7:30 Citizens Concerns

Bike rack complaint came recently from Renee Robbins, now resolved.

7:40 Administrative- minutes review

All minutes taken in 2013 have been approved. Franny, send to clerk.

7:50 MinuteVan updates

Transaction is struggling with software.

Software was free, now they want us to get training.

HBSS (the company that makes the software and contracts to both Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) and Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) wants Transaction to do "problem tickets," thus call with problems, but...

Dispatcher has trouble knowing what they don't know.

Tablets go in vehicles. Vehicle driver just acknowledges pickup and dropoff.

Mike says it is a good system if used well. Pierre and chainsaw. Doesn't work well. They turn it on . "What's that noise?"

Software is robust and scaleable.

Bengt's ISP won't take emails from MinuteVan. Asked them to look into it. Might have a problem with others'.

Rail Shuttle: Franny repeats need for a fixed route from other side of town in addition to W. Acton and Mt. Calvary.

If in the future there is a N. Acton to S. Acton shuttle, Bengt suggests it should perhaps also do a S. Acton to Yankee – Colonial trip in the morning.

Ask Avalon or Yankee if they would pay? Franny considers approaching them.

Suggestion of a shuttle from Avalon TO Yankee?

Watch construction at train station and see what probs are and needs.

8:10 Recent and upcoming grants related to MinuteVan or CrossTown Transit TMA in the process of formation

Town applied for Chinese community inclusion grant.

CrossTown Transit Transit Management Association is being formed by the CIC grant process. IBM, Cisco, Clock Tower, RedHat... Carlisle, Concord, and Westford have joined the original five. Actually, Carlisle hasn't quite joined.

8:30 Site Plan review:

A new Site Plan Special Permit Application (File #03/05/13-441) has been filed for property located at 252 Main Street (Kelley's Corner), Acton, MA. The application seeks approval to demolish an existing structure and construct a new restaurant in its place. The public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, April 22, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Francis Faulkner Hearing Room of Town Hall.

The following is the docushare link to access the submitted application and drawings:

<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-5256>

MIKE gives update:

Panera Bread came to BOS on Monday and they turned them away because Kelley's Corner has own zoning and Panera was proposing knocking down McDonalds and putting up a Panera. The size of the building would increase from present 3400 to 4100 feet. 4100 is in violation of Floor Area Ratio-- footprint of building on footprint of land. Parking for McDonalds is Kmart parking. Mike thinks they will come back with something that fits the 10 foot buffer and 10 foot sidewalk. They had trouble fitting that with their patio plan. Lively discussion of the merits of such generous sidewalk requirements.

Bengt asks if they are improving parking safety.

Mike wants to ask Verizon for parking lot for park.

Roche parking lot and Not Your Average Joe's parking lot...something [notetaker forgets what...]

8:40 Next meeting's Connectivity discussion, inviting other committees, setting agenda

Rec Commission's Joe Will came for this part.

Bruce Freeman will be done by 2014.

We reviewed possible connectivities discussed in fall multi-town meetings such as connecting bike trails to each other; neighborhoods to each other; conservation lands to each other; etc. TAC is floundering with our goal on this.

What would BOS WANT us to focus on? Perhaps focusing on problem areas of biking in town and telling BOS what is needed. Perhaps figuring out connection between ARRT and BFRT. What should goal be?

Focus on bicycle.

Want to narrow goal.

Sidewalks, Rec, COD etc. all have input into these connectivity issues.

Assabet River Rail Trail is scheduled for 2022.

Have to work with Conscom, Land Stewards, to find places to get people off road and use conservation areas.

We looked at map and land along Route 2 or on side streets or private businesses or streets that bike routes would be useful on, especially looking at connection between Assabet River and Bruce Freeman rail trails.

Can look at just point a point b but good to have meandering route that cuts through something such as school campus.

Easy to cross Kelley's Corner at Prospect, go to Great Hill. Bengt likes Prospect one way.

Acton 2020 good to have overview. Has good relation with planning, schools, engineering... to bring depts. and comms. together.

Mike thinks a good plan is to talk to Roland Bartl about goals.

Whoever is driving this thing needs to ask TAC to do whatever.

TAC could advise on shuttle, do groundwork toward a fixed route.

Conclusions are that these are the jobs of TAC:

Problem-solving on public transportation.

Goal-setting on biking—inquire with Roland, let 2020 know our thoughts, tell Roland it should be under 2020's umbrella, groundwork will have to be done by TAC and fed to 2020.

Long-term, look at fixed bus route in town.

In Holland, two highways meet and many bicycles, designed large pole, suspension bridge type circular bike trail around it.

Jim C. agrees that this design would work to help bikes cross route 2.

Meeting ended 9:30.