

Town of Sharon



Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes October 22, 2019

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Members

David Straus, Chair	Linda Hager
Neil Coplan	Terri Rawding absent
David Fixler	

Other Attendees

Peter O'Cain, Town Engineer, DPW Representative
Mike Balestra, Sharon Police Department Representative
TiRN Lego Team and their families
Hanna Switlikowski

Administration

- The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Straus at 7:00 PM at the Community Center.
- Mr. Straus reminded the other members that he wants to step down as Chair and is looking for a replacement.
- Future scheduled meeting(s): 12/10

Minutes

- Ms. Hager moved to approve the minutes of 10/10/19. Mr. Coplan seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0-1 in favor of approval.

TiRN Lego Team from East Elementary School

- A team of students from East Elementary School presented their project to the TAB. They performed a review of parking at the train station and related traffic. They suggested that there is a limited amount of spaces and the quarterly pass system is not being maximized. They also suggested there are areas around town that could be used for satellite train parking. They recommended the use of electric bicycles and the creation of bike paths. They discussed various constraints with the current system as well as benefits that could be earned from their suggestions. They positioned themselves at the station and collected data to support their conclusions.

- Chair Straus thanked them for their ideas and solutions. He confirmed this is not an easy challenge to address. He said that we need to determine how to make sure all spaces are used. Through the sale of quarterly passes, spaces go unused.

Train Station

- Town Engineer; Peter O'Cain commented that regarding the Providence side of the station, he should be able to come up with mitigation measures to make a hard left turn out of the station safer. He said he will have Tom Houston look into this regarding having a signal at the exit.
- Chair Straus said we need to recommend to the Town to move ahead with a full engineering plan for the Providence side of the station.
- A discussion regarding the northbound to Boston platform and plan 6.9.3 ensued. A goal that was agreed to is the separation of daily parkers from drop offs and pickup. Mr. Fixler suggested that the Select Board should be looking at this. The Town should move forward with separating the quarterly lot from the drop offs and pickups.
- Mr. Fixler said we should look at this holistically. There needs to be a short term solution as well as a long term solution to the drop off process.
- Ms. Hager said that the Providence side is a long term solution. Engineer's need to be engaged to analyze feasibility of what was discussed.
- Mr. Straus said to consolidate thoughts into one recommendation for the Select Board. Highlight and summarize what was uncovered from the traffic analysis. Have a chart showing the unused spaces. The traffic study potential impact is to add parking, review congestion, and include ideas to improve access and mobility. Layout what next steps are but that we are still trying to understand the need to build a deck as the Select Board tasked to TAB to look at. Look at immediate access to safety issues and reduce congestion. Regardless of whether a deck is added this needs to be done.
- Mr. Fixler said he will draft the preamble to the survey.
- Mr. O'Cain will see if survey monkey is available to gather the results.
- Mr. Fixler reiterated he is concerned with what is happening today.

Adjournment

Through unanimous consent and by a vote of 4-0-0 the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted:

Rachelle Levitts

Transportation Advisory Board Administrative Assistant