

Town of Sharon



Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Members

Linda Hager - Co Chair	Terri Rawding
Neil Coplan	Sam Liao
David Fixler - Co Chair	

Other Attendees

Kevin Davis, DPW Representative

Administration

- The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00 PM via ZOOM.
- Future scheduled meeting(s): 2/8, 3/1

Minutes

- Mr. Fixler moved to approve the minutes of 11/21/22. Mr. Liao seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of approval.

Discussion

- A set of stairs at the train station is closed for repair. Signs have been put up to help with pedestrian circulation. Mr. Davis said the Town is responsible for the repair of the stairs. Ms. Hager asked if the stairs were in the State right of way. She said Mass Dot was inspecting all stairs and we need to find out if they were inspected for a mandate. Who owns the stairs, Mass Dot or Sharon? Mr. Davis said Mr. O'Cain is working on a solution. Any fix is temporary as concrete cannot be poured in the winter due to cold temperatures. Mr. Liao asked who actually blocked the stairs and Mr. Davis said it was the Town. Mr. Liao said he is trying to figure out the expenditures.
- Ms. Hager said we need to know who owns the stairs. She asked Mr. Fixler to determine if the stairs fall within the charge of the TAB.
- Mr. Coplan began the survey discussion. He asked if there is an area we want to focus on. This could include items such as space on the Providence side for quarterly pass holders, enforcement issue with tickets. We can ask did you previously buy a pass? Are you still purchasing? How many days per week do you park? Do you go to Canton Junction or another nearby station? If we combine these responses with parking data, we can make an

informed decision to the Select Board. Other questions could include do you use the resident lot? Are you pleased with the fees being charged? Which side do you park on? Rate the parking app. Mr. O'Cain had previously volunteered to put the survey on Survey Monkey.

- Kevin Davis, Assistant Town Engineer, Agent of the Board of Health sent a memo to the TAB, dated January 24, 2023.

SUBJECT: MBTA Train Parking Lot This memorandum highlights and summarizes responses to various questions and data requests by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

Current Available Data on Parking Lot Usage I am still gathering data for parking and do not have a large enough data set to produce meaningful results. In the interim, I prepared an attached report utilizing the payment records provided by Shaun Strobel, Treasurer/Collector.

MBTA Contract and Agreement The lease agreement (attached) is a renewal agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). The term of the Lease and Agreement shall be for five (5) years and shall continue from year to year unless either party terminates the agreement. In the most recent negotiations, the MBTA wanted to lease all the lots available on-site, and no new deal or compromise has been made.

Ticket / Non-Payment Policy Brad Fitzhenry from the Police Department is currently working with our department to modify the ticketing times of the parking lot to allow for more time if issues arise from using the application. I will update the TAB should new information or policy stem from this investigation. The prices for violations are derived from Title XIV, Chapter 90, Section 20 A ½. Under this provision, the town can charge up to \$55. Under our current policy, we charge \$25 town-wide for parking violations per a Select Board meeting on May 26, 2020, effective July 1, 2020, and proposed by Officer Balestra. \$0.35 is a convenience fee charged by PayByPhone per transaction. All Train Stations across the MBTA network that use PayByPhone are charging this fee. Some towns roll the cost into their other charges so that it is not as visible. Foxborough and Pawtucket have no charge to park currently.

- Mr. Fixler said let's see if patterns changed since coming out of the pandemic. This data is helpful but we need the survey for data and then we need to make a series of recommendations as to what the next stage of parking should be.
- Ms. Hager said she thinks the Town needs to review the agreement with the MBTA regarding the .35 cent charge.
- Ms. Hager said in the MBTA Agreement there was a clause for the MBTA to maintain the lot and collect fees. Why did we not do this? Would a service fee have been an absorbed fee?
- Mr. Davis said he will talk to Brad Fitzhenry of the Sharon Police department regarding use and costs to the police for pay by phone payments. What are the costs for maintenance? Would we save if we had a new agreement with the MBTA? Mr. Davis said he will ask these questions.
- Mr. Davis will get the parking surcharge data. Can we tell how many residents are paying the .35 cent surcharge?

Adjournment

Mr. Liao moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Fixler seconded the motion. Through unanimous consent and by a vote of 5-0-0 the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted:

Rachelle Levitts

Transportation Advisory Board Administrative Assistant