

Town of Sharon



Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of 8/9/23

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Members

David Fixler Co-Chair	Sam Liao - arrived 7:45PM
Linda Hager Co-Chair	Terri Rawding
Neil Coplan	

Other Attendees

Kevin Davis, DPW Rep, Kiana Pierre-Lewis, Select Board - absent

Administration

- The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:08 PM via ZOOM by Co-Chair Hager.
- Future scheduled meeting(s): 8/16

Train Station Survey Report

- Station Parking Recommendation Report will be presented to the Select Board (SB) on 8/22/23. The report must be provided to the SB by 4 PM on 8/17.
- The TAB reviewed the report on line, discussed wording, discussed the presentation and format to present to the Select Board during the ZOOM meeting.
- Each TAB member will review the report again once Ms. Rawding makes her edits regarding the survey and results section.
- Ms. Levitts will forward the report to all TAB members once received from Ms. Rawding.
- Mr. Davis reported that we can get enforcement for pickup/drop offs at the station during peak hours. He has spoken to Chief Coffey who said there will be a police presence again at the station.

Minutes

- Mr. Coplan moved to approve the 8/2/23 TAB minutes with a minor amendment. Ms. Rawding seconded the motion and the Board voted 3-0-1 (Fixler) in favor of approval.

E-bike Pad/Bike racks

- Mr. Davis said that in response to the question from the 8/2 TAB meeting, yes we can move the bike racks under the overpass.

Stairs

- Stair repair was started today.

Charge of TAB

- Co-Chair Hager said that she contacted former TAB Chair David Straus about the TAB charge and he said he was unaware of the 1959 document.
- Co-Chair Fixler said something needs to be done to orient us as to where we are now. The charge needs to be updated. We bring value.
- Mr. Liao said he believes the charge is general and as a group we should think what we should concern ourselves with. E-bikes was an off shoot. Do we just want to focus on the station, commuter rail and MBTA? The range can be narrow or broad.
- Co-Chair Fixler said he thinks the 1959 charge is narrow. We should talk to the Select Board about additional charge. What advise do they seek? He said the main focus now is the train station report. Focus on the draft parking report. At the end of the day we spent the summer discussing bikes and parking at the station. We can ask what things would you value from the TAB. The 2006 charge is broad. Article 57 states the TAB term is 2 years and the 2006 charge says 3 years.
- Mr. Davis said he confirmed that changing the charge of the TAB does not require a Town Meeting vote. It only requires a Select Board vote.

Article 57. Voted: That the Town create a Town Transportation Advisory Board to be appointed by the Selectmen, said Board to survey the passenger commuting services available to the Town, including but not limited to rail and highway transportation, and to seek cooperative action from the cities and towns and the General Court, and make any recommendations relating thereto; said committee to consist of five (5) members, one to serve for one year, two to serve for two years, and two to serve for three years, and thereafter each to serve three years each, and that the sum of \$100.00 be appropriated from available funds for expenses of said Board.

2006 - Transportation Advisory Board Annual Report - The Transportation Advisory Board is a committee established by the Selectmen to review, recommend and advise the Board of Selectmen on transportation policy issues affecting Sharon. The scope of the Advisory Board encompasses all forms of transportation such as motor vehicle traffic, parking, street lighting, pedestrian, sidewalks and walking trails. Currently there are three members of the Board. The board is open to any Sharon resident who wishes to serve. Each member serves a 3-year term. The Board interfaces with the Sharon Police department, Fire Department and Emergency Services and the Department of Public Works and works closely with both regional and State transportation agencies in the course of exercising its responsibilities, the Transportation Advisory Board has developed criteria to prioritize the construction of sidewalks and has provided these criteria to the Department of Public Works for implementation. In addition, the Board reviews the traffic studies made by developers wishing to develop projects within the town. The Board has reviewed the Avalon project traffic studies and has requested more information from the Developer. Their response and the Board's concerns has been forwarded to the Dept. of Public Works and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board has also reviewed street lighting and has made recommendations to the Department of Public Works to increase lighting in those areas of town where

there is both insufficient street lighting and concerns for public safety. The Board has made specific recommendations to the Dept. of Public Works to update the street lighting policy. The Dept. of Public Works will implement these recommendations in the spring of 2007 after all utility poles have been moved. The Transportation Advisory Board also issued a letter to the MBTA emphasizing Sharon is overdue on the construction of handicapped access at the Sharon Railroad Station platforms. We have been informed that plans are in process to implement this handicapped access. Future areas that will require the Board's attention are • Proposed Pine Hills development • New Interstate 95 Connections with Coney Street being considered by the Mass Department of Highways. • New sidewalk construction • Need for additional parking in selected areas of the Town • Monitoring of parking at the Railroad Station The Transportation Advisory Board encourages Sharon residents to participate in this effort and hopefully lend their time and talent to this committee. Arthur Stein, Chairman.

Adjournment

- Mr. Liao moved to adjourn and Mr. Coplan seconded the motion. The TAB voted 4-0-0 in favor of adjournment at 8:22 PM.