

# Town of Sharon



## Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of 6/28/23

### Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Members

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

### Other Attendees

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

### Administration

- The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:05 PM via ZOOM.
- Future scheduled meeting(s): 7/12

### Train Station Survey Report

- Mr. Fixler said he spoke with Fred Turkington via phone regarding the station lot. As it is still half full, Mr. Turkington said it's better to evaluate the situation in late spring. Mr. Fixler said the pandemic has receded, the way people are working is changing and they are using different train patterns.
- Ideas discussed by the TAB are to turn the quarterly lot to resident only, offer daily parking at a reduced price and use a service fee app to pay. One thought was people don't want to deal with daily payments so keep the quarterly option and an another option is to make quarterly and daily the same lot; a hybrid version.
- Mr. Turkington said to focus on how many apps will be needed, how can this be implemented and how can it be enforced if we make changes. He said the Select Board was looking at various apps and it is worth pursuing. Let's figure out road blocks. We need to figure out costs.
- Mr. Fixler said Mr. Turkington said that there has been no discussion with the MBTA in years. In 2018 the MBTA said they would take over the process but they did not pursue this. There was no upside for Sharon in the deal.
- Ms. Hager said she spoke with Mansfield Town Hall and they offer a resident discount to park. Residents there pay \$2.00 per day to park and have a sticker that costs \$10 which allows dump usage.

- Ms. Hager said in Sharon we prefer not to number the spaces. She suggested one side of the lot be quarterly and one side daily. She said officers in Mansfield check the plates manually. She said we need to come up with ideas and make a recommendation.
- Ms. Pierre-Lewis said we have to start thinking of fees. The TAB can make preliminary suggestions. If TAB says wait 6 months that's fine. She said she likes the hybrid thought. The SB is asking TAB for suggestions so they can figure out what to do.
- Mr. Liao said it had been Mr. Coplan's idea that we have the lot open to anyone. If you want to pay quarterly, you do. If want to pay daily, do so on the app. No space numbers, no segregation, first come, first served. The challenge is to find the technology to see if someone actually paid for the spot. If we can overcome the technology solution - it's a great idea.
- Mr. Coplan's idea is for Sharon residents only.
- Mr. Fixler said commuter patterns change daily. The lot will never be used as it was. It will be underutilized.
- One question is can pay by phone costs be reduced.
- Mr. Liao said the survey gives us a sense of what residents would prefer.
- Mr. Fixler said if we could reduce the daily cost to \$2.75, he would park in Sharon. Need due diligence done to see how this would work.
- Ms. Hager said we need to see if we can remove the spot numbers. How would the police scan methodology for the lot work? What will the app be? We need to complete the research. We might need another survey. We might earn more revenue if provide different options.
- Mr. Fixler said the goal is to fill the other half of the empty lot.
- Mr. Coplan said a hybrid version might be beneficial not just for parking but for the police as well who constantly check license plates.
- Ms. Hager said we can keep the survey in mind. Who can write a recommendations report? Look at options and suggestions.
- In Canton the lot is owned by the MBTA, there are no numbered spots. The management of the lot and verifying of spot payment is done electronically. We need more research.
- Mr. Liao and Mr. Coplan will collaborate to create a suggestion document.
- Mr. Fixler will call pay by phone.
- Ms. Hager said to check City Hall Systems to see if they have a pay by phone app.
- Mr. Liao said create a list of things to do.
- Mr. Fixler said residents will be at the SB meeting and we can get feedback from them.
- Ms. Pierre - Lewis said the SB can take the report on 7/24. Include survey results.
- We need to determine how many people are currently paying for quarterly spots.

## **Minutes**

- Mr. Fixler moved to approve the 6/21/23 minutes as amended by the TAB. Mr. Liao seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of approval.

## **E-bike Pad/Bike racks**

- Mr. Liao made a few suggestions as to where bicycle racks could be placed at the station. He will send his suggestions to Ms. Hager who will create a PDF.

## **Adjournment**

- Mr. Fixler moved to adjourn and Mr. Liao seconded the motion. The TAB voted 4-0-0 in favor of adjournment at 8:15 PM.