

Minutes, Amherst Transportation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 23., 2018

Town Room, Town Hall - 4:30 PM

Members Present: Eve Vogel, Kimberly Tremblay, Mark Rabinsky, Aaron Hayden
Members Absent: Rabib Rafiq, Bruce Carson, Sandra Anderson
Staff Present: Guilford Mooring, Christine Brestrup, David Ziomek, Maureen Pollock
Others Present: Glenn Barrington (Umass Transit)

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

1. Transit Updates – Glenn Barrington

- a. Over 3 million riders as of the end of April. May numbers were not completed yet. This is actually down 2% over last year, and system wide the PVTA is down about 6% over last year. Nationally ridership is below average.
- b. There were minor adjustments, but only on routes with low ridership rates.
- c. Senate propose 88mil for RTA's in MA, but 4mill is being given directly to the MassDOT. This 88mil will fully cover. More information is coming for this after July.
- d. About 10% of riders are town residents, about 9% are university students.
 - i. The money that the town has set aside actually covers the fare box deficits caused by town riders.
 - ii. Town pays for paratransit, but not fixed roof service
- e. Advisory meeting took place 5/23 at noon
- f. B43 line discussion
 - i. PVTA believes that the line should not be abandoned either
 1. Just because MassDOT recommends it, the PVTA does not need to follow it. It is the PVTA's final decision

2. Puffers Pond/State St discussion

- a. Background: A committee was formed around 10 years ago to deal with Puffers Pond related issues.
 - i. A report was developed and one of the issues highlighted was traffic around State St.
 1. Also Mill River Bridge
- b. Mill River Bridge
 - i. Project is moving forward in order for it to be a one-lane bridge with a multi-use path
- c. Select Board still needs to approve part of this project
 1. Single travel lane up the hill with a pedestrian lane
 2. Also 20/20 vision from Conservation
- d. Proposing a One Way, from Lewis' driveway to the East.
 - i. Parking will be moved to the S side of the road. All the way down to the Mill River trail.

- ii. Anything left over for pavement on the shoulder on the N side will be a walking path.
 - iii. One way for bicycles as well.
 - iv. Minimal signage
 - e. From the Bridge around the corner there will be a raised multi-purpose path (from the bridge to the Lewis') where there is two way traffic.
 - f. As you move to the East the travel lane will be moved to the center of the culverts with a walkway on the sides of the culverts.
 - i. Parking will be on one side every day. (unmarked spaces)
 - ii. Walking paths will be 5 ft wide.
 - iii. Parking enforcement will be stepped up once the changes are put in place
 - g. Once you go over the bridge, there is going to be angle-in parking
 - i. There are trails so pedestrians will not have to go into road
 - h. Where the Flood trail is there will be handicapped parking
 - i. Parallel parking will continue beyond that
 - j. There will be a two-way in the area of the railroad bridge due to houses there in order to accommodate traffic
 - k. Eve proposing a change to bike lanes, allowing greater access for bike traffic.
 - i. Guilford suggests waiting until after the parking plan is implemented to see how it works out space wise
 - ii. Modify turnaround for two way bike traffic
 - l. Other committee member wondering about adding more bike parking
 - m. TAC makes motion to approve of the concept and want to move forward with additional vetting of it. As well as the additional E-end 2-way bike access, as well as call for additional updates of it.
 - i. Approved without exception
- 3. Announcements
 - a. Town meeting update
 - i. Formal okay was never gotten from SB to make recommendations, but they were done any way.
 - 1. Result is that all of the easements and one taking under consideration were passed, except for part E regarding imminent domain, which was taken out of the motion.
 - a. Was due to time constraints of taking
 - ii. Money that was added to transportation fund
 - 1. Was made clear that the purpose of the money was going to be used to maintain the schedule on weekends for some bus routes
 - a. Vote was made and did not require that money to be used that way
 - iii. Amity street sidewalk issue was brought up

1. Was stated that it was unusable
 - iv. N Common/Main St parking lot project
 1. Introductory/Kickoff meeting May 29th
 2. Will be designed over the summer/fall by Weston & Sampson with the plan of having plans out to Bid by February so construction can start in May
 4. S Amherst Common
 - a. Meeting can be held at Munson Library
 - b. Recap of discussion held at previous meeting
 5. Summer meetings
 - a. Do a poll for dates
 6. Northampton Rd plan updates
 - a. Mass Highway did not get a new profile to us for the meeting
 - b. Short meeting was held
 - i. 5 ft sidewalk on each side, at most a 3 ft grass median, 4 ft shoulder, 11 ft travel lanes
 1. Paint markings are included in the travel lanes width
 2. Sidewalks on one end may be wider
 3. Undecided if sidewalks will be concrete or asphalt
 - ii. Overall pavement width expands due to the shoulders
 - iii. Crosswalks at Hazel and Orchard
 1. Crosswalk at Dana was removed
 - c. Schedule has been pushed out a year, so about 2 years from now
 - i. Another meeting will probably be held in September/October
 1. See about coordinating meeting for September
 7. West Bay Rd
 - a. Bids going out in June with project ready to start July
 8. Select Board update to Complete Streets document
 - a. They approved and accepted the revised document
 - b. Will move forward as soon as it is sent in
 9. Subcommittee
 - a. Next walk will be June 14th in East Amherst (Belchertown Rd to Echo Hill)
 - b. Ready to assist with Ped/Bike Plan
 10. Bike Share
 - a. Roll out is June 28th at 11:00 am in Northampton
 - b. All of the pads and wiring are going in in town
 - i. Amherst may get their bikes first because we are furthest along
 11. Approval of minutes
 - a. Approved: 2-0-2

Minutes compiled by: A. Taylor