



## HARVARD TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

**MARCH 30, 2021**

Chris Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:30pm virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, under M.G.L. Chapter 40A and Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 125

**Members Present:** Stacia Donahue (PB), Bruce Leicher (at large – bike focus), Beth Williams (COA), SusanMary Redinger (SC), Pam Marston (HHC), Gabriel Medjanis (at large), Jim Lee (At large - trails), Rene Turnheim (at large), Kara Minar (SB)

**Others Present:** Christopher Ryan (Director of Community and Economic Development), Tim Kilhart (DPW); Rebecca Kelly (PB)

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Organizing and Selection of Officers**

Chair – Gabriel Medianis  
Vice Chair – None for now  
Clerk – Stacia Donahue

#### **Scheduling of Regular Meetings**

CR will do doodle poll – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays and Tuesdays seem to be the best so far.

#### **Summary of Recent and Ongoing Transportation Initiatives**

Review of 2016 Master Plan items related to Transportation. These are the guiding start for the TAC.

Ayer Road TIP update from Tim Kilhart – 25% is with MassDOT. When they're done with review, then we will have the 25% Public Hearing. Right now, 2026-2027 seems to be the timeframe for funding out of MRPC. However, if Leominster project drops the ball, then we might be able to catch funding as early as 2024. MRPC list will be proposed in April, voted in May to set it (TIP – Transportation Improvement Plan) for the year. The 25% Public Hearing will likely be this spring or early summer but date can't be set until MassDOT completes their review.

Donahue reviewed the need for having projects ready to go when grant opportunities arise for trails, ped, and bike projects similar to how Tim Kilhart has worked to get projects ready on the larger infrastructure projects. SD noted there are funding sources and groups working on funding sources outside of the normal schedule. Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) is trying to come up with a collaborative list for the towns so we know what's available and when it's due.

Donahue reviewed the trail connection from Lancaster County to Depot. Jim Lee noted that it was fully engineered at it's beginning to be a paved path. Would like to possibly bring this back to complete this work or find a way to more clearly care for the path's maintenance. Lee noted that currently an ad-hoc group of volunteers maintains the trail in summer and snowmobile club maintains it in the winter. The path is under the jurisdiction of P&R.

Donahue reviewed the connection between Harvard and Devens via Old Mill Road. Noted that Devens is ready to re-open whenever we're ready. Public outreach and funding for cleaning up the entrance on the Harvard side is needed. SD noted that the Nashoba Regional Greenways Coalition is interested in seeing BOTH of these routes established/improved and might be another source of funding once they get organized to achieve this goal.

Ryan reviewed the park and ride lot project need with/for MART access. Kara Minar had looked at churches near the center when she was on PB and also SB, but nothing has materialized so far. Donahue noted that if we could find a lot, MART could add us to their route. Ryan noted that he's been working with MassDOT on one of the parcels near the RT 2 interchange. Much discussion for options of where/how to move forward with something on this front. Ryan noted Complete Street needs to have projects ready to go so we can apply. Minar noted that applications are typically due in the winter.

Redinger noted Safe Routes to school didn't pan out for School Committee because we lacked the density needed to get funding. Ryan noted that hopefully we can try again and petition to be considered as we're a rural area and could never achieve the density required.

Ryan noted that MART has specialty shuttles to get to various hospitals in the region. Getting on their route should be something that we can focus on as a start.

Ryan noted on the trail information and mapping project, there is room for improvement. Rebecca Kelly noted that we don't have a trail map online anywhere and is unclear on where to park to access trails. Leicher noted that 'AllTrails' app has some of the trails/parking. Ryan noted that we could have it mapped on GIS and have it linked to our town website. Lee noted that HCT has an online version of their trail maps (HCT and ConCom) (by Marc Sevingy) and maybe we should link this online version to the town website.

### **Selection of Officers**

Medianis agreed to try his hand at Chair after Ryan noted that he would assist in the work required and help get him familiar with how it worked. Minar motioned and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by another member. The vote was unanimous in favor. SD agreed to Clerk.

After some debate and a long awkward pause, it was generally agreed we would continue without a Vice Chair at this time as the group only meets quarterly.

### **Adjournment:**

Minar motion; Williams seconded  
The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Signed: Stacia Donahue  
Stacia Donahue, Clerk