

HARVARD TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

Date: March 28, 2023

Time: 7:30PM

Place: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Gabriel Medjanis, Stacia Donahue, Bruce Leicher, Kara McGuire Minar, Pam Marston, Rene Turnheim

Others Present: None.

GMedjanis called the meeting to order at 7:34pm virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, under M.G.L. Chapter 30A S20 and Code of the Town of Harvard Chapter 125.

1. Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- a. Review of Transportation Related Goals and Actions – Reviewed the CAP page with the items where TAC is the 'project manager' position. HCIC has requested TAC to review the items that have been tasked to them. SDonahue asked for clarification on timing of reporting. It was understood that quarterly check in's would mean that we need to put CAP review on TAC agenda ever other meeting. This seemed reasonable to TAC members.

2. District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Funding Assistance Approval (from Montachusett Regional Planning Commission MRPC)

- a. Harvard/Devens Shared Use Path (SUP) Connectivity: Harvard has been granted assistance from the regional planning agency (MRPC) thru DLTA funding from the Commonwealth to assist the TAC. The request to MRPC was to assist TAC with the Harvard/Devens Shared Use Path at the end of Old Mill Road. The project has stalled for some time due to inaction on the part of MassDev and also some unknown land ownership and easement issues. TAC is hopeful that with the regional planning agency's help, the project can move forward and Harvard can find some grant assistance program help to do Harvard's part of the scope. SDonahue noted that MRPC has a team that works on GIS mapping and they probably have expertise or at least have run into land ownership gray areas before and can hopefully guide DEC and TAC on how to resolve them. GMedjanis noted that he has spoken with Neil Angus from Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) and it was discussed that the easements under the railroad seem to be the sticking point. He was happy to hear that we would have help trying to determine what can be done to unstick MassDev. DEC is willing and TAC is willing, so hopefully the addition of MRPC and the DLTA help will spur MassDev to action.
- b. Nashoba Regional Greenway (NRG) Network Expansion, Bicycle/Pedestrian Signage: BLEicher is the rep attending NRG meetings. The most recent update is that NRG was attempting to get a grant for installation of way finding now that most of the routes have been mapped to show a regional, relatively safer interconnection. The trails grant program can fund the signage, but there's been a lack of professional staff available to apply for the grant. One of the larger towns in the NRG grouping is willing to step up for the group, but each individual town would need to commit to the 'matching funds' part of the grant to get the signs installed. The next step is to meet with TKillhart and TBragan to see if we could have time from DPW as our 'match' for the grant to install the signs. If the Town can't afford to support the installation, another option would be to ask for CPC funds under the recreation category.

3. Transportation Related Project Updates

- a. Ayer Road Bylaw – Smart Growth Overlay District. SDonahue reviewed the status of the proposed bylaw in front of the planning board right now and the proposed development. It's important to keep the bylaw and the proposal as separate items. The bylaw is the important part as it will truly dictate what can go on those parcels.

- b. MBTA Multifamily Community Prospect – Reviewed the process of how PB will bring this to Town Meeting in the future. DHCD – the driver of this change – will be working with the Town to ensure our compliance with the parcels and the bylaw changes required to comply with the new requirements.
 - c. TAC Webpage Updates with Project Links from Planning Board Page – JLee has worked with Town Hall to get all the Transportation related items re-mapped from planning board page to the TAC page.
 - d. MART connection. Discussion about need for added stops. SDonahue will reach out to MART coordinator to verify if the 10-15 parking spots is still a requirement to get added to a loop. Also ask if they would consider 3 Harvard stops; Harvard Senior Center (new location), Dunkin Donuts, and Hildreth House. To make the request official, agreement from Town Administrator and Select Board will probably be required.
4. **Approval of Minutes (1/31/23).** SDonahue forgot to send to the group the minutes, so no approval was possible. Two sets of minutes will need approval at next meeting.

5. **Other Business:** None tonight.

6. **Adjournment:**

GMedjanis moved to adjourn. BLeicher seconded. Unanimous agreement. Adjourned at 8:42pm.

Next meeting: TBD in late May 2023