

**HARVARD TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

Gabriel Medjanis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm 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

**Members Present:** Stacia Donahue, Bruce Leicher, Gabriel Medjanis, Jim Lee, Rene Turnheim, Kara Minar, Pam Marston, Beth Williams

**Others Present:** Chris Ryan (Director of Economic Development); Neil Angus (Devens Enterprise Commission)

**Meeting Minutes Approval**

BLEicher motioned to approve minutes from 9/1 and 9/28. Jim Lee seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Discussion of Trails Grant Projects and Logistics**

BLEicher shared a power point presentation on the Mass Trails Grant program on the Depot Road to Old Lancaster County Road connection. This project is of interest to Park & Rec as well and they have help from an Eagle Scout to rebuild a bridge on the trail. Mass Trails is a REIMBURSEMENT project with matching grants. We will need to figure where to get funding. CRYan suggested that DPW should carry this in their budget.

The grant amounts are between 50K and 300K with more going to 'regional' project. BLEicher believes this could qualify as it does connect regions of the town and eventually will connect us to Devens.

We will also need to get land owner permission. Jim Lee noted that most of the land is on MassDot land and they initially were amenable to the building of the trail as long as they didn't have to fund it.

BLEicher asked if Depot/Lancaster County was priority or Old Mill/Devens?

NAngus will be meeting with Red Tail and MassDevelopment this coming Friday 11/19 to discuss how to move forward now that Harvard is willing.

CRYan suggested that due to the complications of more parties on the Old Mill to Devens, it might be better for us to focus on Depot to Old Lancaster County. BLEicher agrees as there is so much to work out with funding and joint agreements with the Old Mill/Devens. JLee contended that both could be worked together and that the Devens connection piece is already in process. TAC and NAngus discussed pros/cons about the combination. NAngus will ask at his meeting on Friday if MassDevelopment could work toward our deadline of Feb 1 to apply for this funding. KMinar noted that putting the projects together might help us as it shows a larger project. CRYan suggested trying to determine if we can apply for funding from Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, and the Mass Trails grants. JLee suggested that we try to get the design done for both with the grant this year and the follow up the next year with completion to Devens in the construction. We will probably have to pay an engineering firm to help us get the application submitted. KMinar noted that possible funding sources to cover that before Feb 1 might need to be covered by Rand Toul Trust. SDonahue noted that this project is also something that is desired by the School Committee and Park & Rec Committee who have both worked to try and get funding for this project in the past.

CRYan will discuss with DPW tomorrow to see how they feel about the project and the application. CRYan will follow up later this week. BLEicher reminded everyone that we are short on time suggested meeting again the week of 12/6 after the MassTrails bidder's meeting and NAngus meeting with MassDev.

**TAC Public Meeting**

CRyan has noted that there is not much buzz in the community currently so asked people to get the word out to the community. We're trying to get the TAC and Climate Action Plan discussed so it all gets incorporated. MRPC will be there to review their progress on the Transportation Plan.

#### **Discuss Complete Streets List**

TKilhart noted that we needed to have 15 projects in our list. The list that we previously had 11 projects so the suggestion from our engineers was to break up the projects. There was confusion on the draft CRyan presented. CRyan appeared to have an outdated list. The version dated 10/16/21 is the latest. SDonahue and RTurnheim will send to CRyan for review and incorporation for the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

TAC discussed if the Ayer Road round about and if it should be in/out of the list for discussion. There was concern that the discussion of the rotary would dominate and push out discussion of the holistic approach we need to have

#### **Other Business**

NAngus suggested that new DPW director for Ayer be invited to the 11/17 meeting and will forward contact to CRyan for inclusion. CRyan noted that was a good idea.

#### **Adjournment:**

KMinar motioned to adjourn. JLee seconded. Unanimous agreement. Adjourned at 6:54pm.

Next meeting: TAC Public Meeting - November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Stacia Donahue, Clerk