

Harvard Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 3, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Beth Williams, Pam Marston, Gabriel Medjanis, Suzi Allen, Rene Turnheim, Kara Minar, Jim Lee, Bruce Leicher

Guests: Chris Ryan (Director of Economic Development); Ellen Sachs Leicher (Harvard Climate Initiative Committee),

Meeting was convened at 7:02 pm, 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. Roll Call, Sound Check were done. Preamble, Rules for Participation, and Reminder that meeting materials are available online and that this meeting is being recorded were read by Chris Ryan.
2. Approve December 14, 2021 Minutes: Minutes were approved, as amended.
3. Discussion of Officers, Staggered Terms, Renewal of Commitment – This item was tabled until next meeting.
4. Discussion of Transportation Plan Update Project and MRPC Feedback – Formal comments received from Staci, Gabe & Bruce. Lack of Devens roads was disappointing. 2020 traffic counts – who took them. Already useless. Already at pre-COVID traffic. For reference point, previous traffic counts (2019) should be considered (Kara). Chris to ask to have high-lighted column showing the 2020 anomaly. Bruce recommended a better situated bike plan for Lovers Lane & Under Pin Hill Road. Without solution for Devens' disposition, maybe Devens Connectivity should be eliminated from this document.

Funding Considerations – seems to be in wrong place in document.

Scenic Roads – Is there any real transportation rationale for why it's in this document. Is this the explanation why these roads aren't upgraded?

Truck Routes – Should emphasize growing concern regarding the uptick in Truck traffic. Should roundabouts be considered again on Ayer Road for traffic calming? Jim Lee asked that should truck traffic from Devens to Route 2 be diverted off Ayer Road? Should infrastructure be added to accommodate future water & sewer?

Traffic Operations – New police chief should be interviewed for his input on this section of the document. Jim Lee feels that keeping roads narrow will slow traffic. Doesn't like the way things are worded.

Ayer Road Commercial Corridor – most information in this document is useless. Out of date. Gabe asked that Safe Speeds info be added.

Safety - Ayer Road (north of Route 2) accident data should be added to document. This area is missing from Table 8.7 (Top 10 Crash Corridors). Possibly add deer strikes, bicycles & pedestrians.

Public Transportation – Gabe noted the importance of climate action.

Pedestrian Network – walkable Harvard. In the Master Plan. Complete Streets prioritization plan should be imbedded in this document. Bruce Leicher wanted us to include the Hildreth School parking lot and walking path on Pond Road (inside the stone wall).

Future comments to be emailed to Chris Ryan prior to February 9th.

5. Public hearing on Ayer Road TIP project tentatively scheduled for 7:00pm on March 30th. 25% design PDF will be available for viewing (70-page plan set including utilities, storm drains, etc.). Chris Ryan will try to do local outreach a week or 2 prior to this meeting. Encourages members to do outreach via Nextdoor Harvard to get the word out. Possible utilization of Select Board email blasts or Harvard Press a few weeks prior to meeting. Kara Minar moved, seconded by Suzi Allen to ask Tim Kilhart to provide TAC with enough information for outreach, prior to February 16th or 24th.
6. Discussion of Old Mill Trail Public Meeting - Meeting to be held on February 16, 2022. Should be a regular Zoom meeting. Chris will put on Town calendar on February 4, 2022. Notify residents of Old Mill, Blanchard Road.
7. Other Business - None
8. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2022 @ 7:00PM

- May 14, 2022: Annual Town Meeting