

**HARVARD TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** November 13, 2023

**Time:** 7:30PM

**Place:** Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

**Others Present:** Joan Eliyesil (Harvard Press)

GMedjanis called the meeting to order at 7:38pm 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 update**

- a. TAC has not heard from HCIC in a bit and we believe TAC is up to date with our work on the CAP. We will send updates when items change.

**2. CPC Funding**

- a. Bureaucratic hurdles have made it difficult to apply for funds to support the signage for the NRG trails project. The Department of Revenue claims that signage is not allowable but our CPC Harvard bylaw allows connections between trails as a recreational use. CPC funds have been used in the past to put signage for the Depot Road trails so it seems inconsistent that it was allowed before but is not being allowed now. BLeicher will continue to argue Harvard's case to the Department of Revenue to try and move this forward.
- b. Rail trails would be allowable, but our trail markers for road connections.
- c. Other NRG towns are also applying for CPC funding to get their trail signage, so we are not the only town with this challenge.
- d. The board discussed and consensus was to withdraw our CPC application this year and try again next year. We still have time to get the signage, so waiting won't hurt the project.

**3. MART Service Update**

- a. As of this week (11/13/23), one week into the service we have not had any riders. There was one person who missed the shuttle/didn't understand the schedule, so MART was reaching out to that person to try and coordinate better so they can use the service.
- b. MART has an on-demand shuttle that just started using Federal funding. SDonahue noted that we were told that we could not join the existing on-demand shuttle out of Devens/Ayer. However BLeicher noted at the monthly MBTA meeting that the service might now be able to be expanded to serve Harvard. If the MART shuttle service turns out to be unpopular with commuters, maybe we can look to switch it to the on-demand style service instead.
- c. Parking is not being allowed at COA or P&R's Charlie Waite field for the COA MART stop. So far it has not been an issue, but it's something we're going to have to keep an eye on as it moves forward. Parking at Town Hall area is not as big a sticking point as COA/Charlie Waite. We talked about possibly approaching the Rollstone Bank/Sorento's lot if problems start to develop.

**4. Depot Road Trail update**

- a. JLee will be talking to TKilhart about the project on Friday. Trying to get a trail or shared use path (SUP) installed when the work is done would be ideal. Jim will update the group after his discussion this week.

**5. Transportation Related Projects Updates**

- a. Safe Routes to School grant funding has been explored and is not worth wasting volunteer effort for grant application as we do not have the density near the schools to win the grant.
- b. MassTrails grant for the trail connecting between Devens has also stalled out. The Army/Devens and CSX are struggling with who owns the land under the bridge so that we can get approval to move forward. Devens Enterprise Commission is for it and ready to connect, but the stall is the ownership of the land under the railroad bridge. If we can just get some resolution on the land ownership, we could un-stick the project and make an application for CPC funds to design the Harvard side of the project. Rep Dan Sena has offered to try and help. TBragen has a meeting with CSX about security issues at the Oxbow and KMinar will ask him to also talk with them about this bridge connection at the same time while we have someone that is actually speaking to us.
- c. SDonahue noted that Town Center Overlay bylaw will be on the agenda for planning board to work on next. Planning Board will circle back to TAC as it's developing to make sure connectivity is considered as we move forward.
- d. Ayer Road Visioning plan meeting was reviewed briefly. Nothing for TAC to do at this time.
- e. Complete Streets – Does this need to be updated? GMedjanis to review with TKilhart to see if this needs to be updated and reapproved.

**6. Approval of Minutes 9/11/23**

- a. SDonahue forgot to send out the minutes, so we passed on this item tonight. There will be 2 sets to approve at next meeting.

**7. Other Business:** None tonight.

**8. Adjournment:**

**BLEicher moved to adjourn. PMarston seconded. Unanimous agreement. Adjourned at 8:32pm.**

Next meeting: TBD