

HARVARD TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

Date: January 16, 2024

Time: 7:45PM

Place: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Gabriel Medjanis, Kara Minar, Stacia Donahue, Beth Williams, Pam Marston, Suzie Allen (part time).

Others Present: None

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. The HCIC is up to date with TAC with respect to the Climate Action Plan. New goals will be forthcoming.

2. MRPC Assistance for Grant Writing Update

- a. SDonahue notes that HCIC has grant help from the MVP program but not sure if they are getting assistance from MRPC.
- b. KMinar noted that a grant writer position has been discussed at the Select Board level, but nothing has been decided at this point.
- c. GMedjanis noted that grants are available but we don't have help to go after the grant or administer the grants. TAC is unsure where this leaves us for getting help with any of the projects we're interested in pursuing.

3. MART Service Update

- a. MART reports that we are averaging about one rider per day.
- b. SDonahue asked at Planning Board meeting to see if Town Planner could discuss parking lot usage with the churches in Town center. As of 1/8/24 PB meeting, 2 churches said they had no spots to spare and St. Theresa's had not yet returned the call.
- c. SDonhue emailed with MART to ask if they would speak with the Press for an article, they are planning to write to update everyone on how the service is going. MART may also buy more advertising in the Press to help get the word out.
- d. KMinar will ask again at Select Board if we can use the 10 spots that are ½ way between Hildreth and Fire Station. It may be that those spots are not as necessary for the volunteer fire fighters as it was reported as it was assumed that most volunteers just go straight to the incident and not many go to the fire station. KMinar also noted that fire fighters are going to park where they need to regardless of the spaces available if they need to respond in an emergency. (*Clarification: KMinar spoke with HFD after this meeting and confirmed that the firefighters do report to the station first and do not drive directly to the scene).
- e. Thoughts about using parking lots at 12 Lancaster County as it's mostly empty. Also the owner of Sorrentos parking lot area to see if spots could be reserved there. KMinar was going to follow up with TBraden as she thought he was going to connect with that parcel owner.

4. Transportation Related Projects Updates

- a. Bicycle route from Town Center to Depot Field roads when they repave for the new water line – we have no update at this time JLee was supposed to connect with TKilhart about opportunity to add some sort of path to the project. Will review next meeting.
- b. Old Mill to Devens connect - KMinar reported that ConRail (or CSX?) has a new contact that reached out to TBraden so hopefully we can get this project un-stuck as it has been several

- years of trying to make this connection happen. Devens and Harvard are willing, but are held up by ConRail (CSX?) and MassDevelopment at Devens. Once jurisdictional determination is made, then TAC can look at MassTrails grant funding to design the Harvard side of the work.
- c. Complete Streets – We had multiple versions of Complete Street lists but all lists are old. TAC questioned how or if the prioritization plan was or is used. The old DPW list (2017) included metrics that could help rank the projects. The newer Chris Ryan version (2021) included more bicycle related projects. Plan will be needed as we head toward the revised Townwide Master Plan (2026). KMinar suggested a late afternoon meeting that could include TKilhart so that we can find out what he needs from us as it's not clear when and if the list has been needed or used.

5. Approval of Minutes 9/11/23 and 11/13/23

- a. GMedjanis moved to approve as submitted, Beth seconded. All in favor. SDonahue will forward minutes to Town Clerk for posting.

6. Other Business: SDonahue announced that Brad Harris – longtime transportation planner at MRPC had retired and that Brian Doherty had been promoted to his position effective Jan 1, 2024. Should be no change in service from MPRC as Brian had been working under Brad's supervision for some time. Doherty noted that TKillhart attends the regional transportation meetings regularly representing Harvard.

7. Adjournment:

PMarston moved to adjourn. BWilliams seconded. Unanimous agreement. Adjourned at 8:48pm.

Next meeting: TBD