Littleton Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019 - 5:30pm

**Members Present:** Gary Lacroix, Chairman; Betsy Bohling, Vice-Chairman; Nicholas Pellegrino, Clerk; Anna Hueston; Cynthia Napoli; Nik Bates-Haus; Mary Pickard.

**Non-Members Present:** Liz Tretiak, Elder Services; Chris Stoddard, Department of Public Works; Maren Toohill, Town Planner.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance/ Welcome:**

   The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Chairman Lacroix welcomed everyone and informed the council that Cindy Napoli was now the BOS representative.

2. **Items of Interest:**

   a. **Chris Stoddard, DPW.**
      
      - Chris informed the council that the street paving is progressing as scheduled. However, the Foster Street project is not on schedule any longer. The project has failed two bacteria tests. Once the bacteria tests come back negative, the new water mains can be connected. Another thing that caused a delay was the discovery of three gas lines under the road when there should only have been one. Chris was hoping to have the new curb laid down by 10/30/19.
      
      - Chris also informed the council that his department is revising the plan to re-do the intersection of Great Road at the Beaver Brook. He is planning to go in front of the Board of Selectmen in late November or early December. He would like to pursue TIP funding from MassDOT but the State does not want a traffic light installed; they will only support the installation of a round-about. The State will only entertain the idea of installing a traffic light if the Town can demonstrate the round-about is insufficient. The State does not have a problem with the intersection because no one has died. The intent would be to build a by-pass lane for traffic going eastbound and adding a shared use path on land between Old Great Road and Great Road. If TIP-funded the project would cost $4 million but the Town will only pay $400K.
      
      - Nothing positive to report on the traffic light at the High School. MassDOT District 3 supports it though it does not meet criteria for funding. Boston does not support it so Rep. Arciero has been approached. If a GO it would be at least a year away.
      
      - Nik Bates-Haus asked about fixing the Bruce Willow Intersection. Chris informed him that it’s on the TIP for 2023.
      
      - Chris mentioned that Beta scan street paving assessments are now compete. Nik asked if Beta included sidewalks in their mapping. Chris confirmed they did not; street mapping was the important thing the Town needed completed. In 3 years, when the Town re-does the street mapping, Beta will include the sidewalks. The
Highway Department has a list of all of the sidewalks in Town; Chris agreed to provide a copy to Nik.

b. **Elder Services.** Gary provided the update for the Elder Services Department. In September, there were 218 trips scheduled on bus #1 with 40 cancellations. On bus #2, there were 140 trips scheduled with 21 cancellations. There were less cancellations than August. There was one ride denial in September and no rides denied in August.

c. **Maren Toohill, Planning Board:** The Town is interested in leasing some parking spaces at 259 Foster Street for people who take the Commuter Rail into Boston. The landlord is interested in leasing the spaces. The possibility of building a paved path from Foster Street to the portion of the parking lot closest to the train station was discussed. Chris said it was very doable to include in the scope of the Foster Street improvements. It would only cost $1,000.00 to build the path and add some lighting. The Town should see if the landlord would be interested in splitting the costs.

3. **Anna Hueston re: Planning Board items:**

The Town is still attempting to move to Form Based Zoning Codes in the Common area. The matter was continued to January of 2020 to get more citizen input. The Town needs more input on how the code would affect larger commercial properties like Northern Bank and Trust. Anna thinks there is a role for the TAC to help with the Form Based Zoning Codes/Common area planning. Planning Board is also considering the Transfer of Development rights in the area of the Train Station. This would be a swap of denser development in exchange for open space elsewhere in town. Anna thinks the TAC could have a role in supporting this.

4. **Nik Bates-Haus re: Bicycle-Pedestrian items:**

Nik informed the council there needs to be more bike racks at the Littleton Train Station. The current racks are maxed out every day and people have to chain their bikes to the fence. He said there is room to add 4 more racks. Anna mentioned that the MBTA has an application in front of the Conservation Commission, so the Town has contact information for the MBTA. She will pass that info along to TAC so we can reach out and request the additional bike racks. Nik will also follow-up with info to Chris to see if Highway Dept can assist as well.

5. **Grant Items:**

Gary brought up the Council had agreed to support the BPAC suggestion to pursue a MassTrails grant for the Cooper Farm Trail that runs from Shaker Lane to behind the Aubuchon Hardware Plaza. The grants can be up to $300,000.00. Steve Marsh and Matt Fields are committed to building the trail. Steve Marsh is willing pay for crushed stones and to purchase bridge parts if someone else builds the bridge. Matt Fields is only willing to pay for wood chips for the trail. Chris Stoddard did not recommend wood chips; the Town would be willing to provide road grindings. Chris thought that using grant funds for the bridge would be a good idea. Chris also noted that thus would have to go through Natural Heritage because there is a
species of Salamander than lives along the trail path. They will dictate the bridge and path materials that can be used. BPAC is willing to take the lead on this project.

Gary was planning on attending the Mass Trails Conference (10/30-11/2). There was no interest from anyone in attending the Moving Together conference.

6. **Other information:**

- Gary referred to some items from the recent MAPC/MAGIC newsletters.
- The Age Friendly Forum on Housing and Transportation has been pushed out until January
- Gary pointed out some other recent transportation articles and websites/resources that he became aware of including “Livable Streets” a group based out of Cambridge ([www.livablestreets.info](http://www.livablestreets.info))

7. **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting was scheduled for December 11, 2019; start time either 5:00 or 5:30pm.

8. **Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes from prior meetings:**

The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Motion to Adjourn:**

The motion passed unanimously.