

The Board of Selectmen met for a second time on January 22, 2019 at 7:45 in the Murphy Room at the Walpole Cooperative Bank South Street Center. The following members were present.

Mark Gallivan, Chairman
Nancy Mackenzie, Vice Chairman
James O'Neil, Clerk
David Salvatore
Ann Ragosta

Also present:
James Johnson, Town Administrator
Cindy Berube, Executive Assistant

The purpose of the meeting was to hear an update from MBTA.

Welcome to the second part of the Board meeting. We are talking with Mass DOT about the Foxboro PILOT line.

Jodi Ray Assistant General Manager of Commuter Rail and Jim Eng Deputy Rail & Transit Administrator and Trish Foley are present from MBTA. We will have them go over the issues we want answered. My goal is not be here until 11pm. Try not to go over the same material over and over again.

Proposed Start date of PILOT.

Mr. Ray read the five points the Board has on the agenda.

Mr. Ray stated that the PILOT program start date has a projected date, which will be May 20th. The Monday before Memorial Day. Every year we tend to change the schedule. That is the date we are shooting for. There are some issues with materials we are waiting for. Some are very specific two vendors available. One is giving us a date beyond May. We have ordered material that will come in after May.

Summer Street crossing gate & track switch

Mr. Eng on the Summer St. Crossing gate & track switch. The MBTA will install gates before we start service. The track switch has been completed but it will be done before the PILOT starts. The two high visibility signs have been installed. I understand they are working. The Sidewalks that we constructed for the town they meet ADA they have been finished, and we have an email and they are satisfactory to the town. Come back in the spring because we did some work in the grass area and we will loam and seed when it gets warmer.

Walpole trains station crossing, both the driveway and crosswalk that goes out to West St. They get active warning and gates there as well which are part of the project. The Track switch Mr. Johnson talked about, that is the part we need.

Speed limit the way FRA set speeds you maintain the track to a certain level. We will bring that speed down, the maximum would be 60MPH at the Station, but I do not see that. Not enough distance so we are approximating the speed will be 40 mph for most of the distance. The freight speed will remain the same. The fencing and vegetation, that is complete, the fence will be going up, we are waiting for cable work to be done. When that is out of the way, the fence crew will start the work once that is done. Later start than we had hoped, it is all set to be installed and will be up before the trains run as well.

Mrs. Mackenzie you talked about speed the track at the Walpole Station could be 60 mph. Jodi no probably 10-15mph. Mrs. Mackenzie what will happen to people walking through there? It cuts straight across the parking lot. Jodi, there will be gates and bells that a train coming. Mrs. Mackenzie how many times a day? Jodi probably 12 times a day. Mrs. Mackenzie what about kids there waiting for someone? People hanging out for people. Someone is riding their bikes. Jody, there will be gates and bells that happens before the train arrives. Mrs. Mackenzie wanted to know are there any other stations that this happens at. Jodi quite a few.

Mrs. Mackenzie you said crossing in S. Walpole at 60mph. Jodi, my guess is that they will be coming through a signal switch that it will be 40mph. Mrs. Mackenzie the police chief wants it slower. What is your felling on that. Jody it is unnecessary. Jody we do not have speed limits crossing. Mrs. Mackenzie it is going into a station that is ending. Jodi if you want to convince people to ride a train you can't slow down. Mrs. Mackenzie what is the difference from that grade crossing. Jody, It will slow down at the curve. Mrs. Mackenzie is this because you want to run it through Foxboro? Jody, no we are not doing that. It adds a half hour to the trip time if it is 10-15mph. There was a plan to run a train from Providence but it adds a half hour. Mrs. Mackenzie when you upgrade the crossings in Foxboro, there are trains going through those crossings. Jim the crossings you are talking about are old crossings. We just want to maintain the existing crossings. What is the speed for them? Jim those are freight speeds, 25mph.

Jody those are existing crossings, Mass DOT makes sure that people can cross over them safely. Mrs. Mackenzie what is the speed for all those crossings? Jody those are freight trains, 25mph they have a 100 cars or more.

Mr. O'Neil around the grade crossing can you describe fencing is there anything to protect people? We are not there to protect it is a warning so the warning is telling you that there is a train coming. The bells and lights is a warning. There will be a guard rail along the driveway behind the post office. fencing just off the crossing, going behind houses on Shuefelt rd. toward the stadium.

Mr. O'Neil the PILOT start date. You said you had issues with material. Can you talk about what materials, will you have to have everything in place before you start the PILOT program? Jody we will not start without the crossing safety. The remote switches are what we are waiting for. The signal system that we are waiting for. The vital compartments in it that can be controlled in Boston. The system is Vidal in the field.

Mr. O'Neil if you do not have the remote in place you could start the PILOT and someone would have to physically change the switch. Jody It is highly unlikely that we would start with that. To do that for a long period of time does not make sense.

The crossing warning signals will be in place. Mr. O'Neil they have not said they can't do it, we are waiting for this to come out to be more formally presented to us. Mr. O'Neil would like to know if there is something not in place that we know what that is.

Ms. Ragosta, I understand that the MBTA has significant experience, every grade crossing is different. This crossing in S. Walpole seems to be vulnerable as it is a small area, not much distance on the road. There are no grade crossings with 15mph, you talked about going 10-15 through the Train Station. Why would you not consider reducing the speed to 30MPH, 45 is very slow for a commuter rail crossing, why would 10-15 mph for a one mile. Jody the train is over a mile long. Jody, The PILOT would not make sense as no one would want to ride a train going that slow. It would go from 4 minutes to 16 minutes. Ms. Ragosta from the time the train leaves the Walpole Station? Jody as soon as they get off the curves they can accelerate. Ms. Ragosta so for 8/10 of mile you can't go 30MPH? Jody, you could not attract riders if it goes too slow. Ms. Ragosta, I am talking 30mph. Jody, it is not just 8/10 of a mile. We spend all of our time to speed trains up. Ms. Ragosta from a resident's participation and concerns, could it be possible to give us the time difference. The franklin line has many slow areas; the distance between stops is not much. When you have stop locations you cannot get the train up to speed. Ms. Ragosta It is optional if you chose to with regards to the speed. I would like to know how much longer it would take if you reduce to 30mph. Mrs. Mackenzie how long would it take to go from 30 mph. The arms have to go down 20 seconds before it gets there, they could be going 20MPH that is not going make or break a train ride.

Jodi the trains are designed to accelerate. Some of the older locomotives take longer. Mrs. Mackenzie this is within the walking distance to Boyden School. You said you were going to meet with the schools and discuss and educate the kids so they are aware of the trains. Jody we are working on that. Mrs. Mackenzie it is a PILOT program why not try 20mph. I think we can start somewhere. There has been no giving here. The people that live here nearer a train track that was used once a night. Jodi talked about the fencing. The PILOT would not typically have fencing. The Town asked for fencing and we are installing it. Mrs. Mackenzie we didn't ask for the train, It is not nice. It is mean and wrong.

Mr. Salvatore you said the estimated speed for the crossing would be 40mph. Jodi yes in that area. Considering the distance between the Foxboro station, you can say the trains can reach higher speed. Mr. Salvatore, so the speed at the crossing could reach a higher speed.

I can take time out. The train cannot depart until their schedule time. Mr. Salvatore so you base that on the least productive train.

The train would have a slot. Yes the train could go faster but than they would be waiting longer at station. Mr. Salvatore do you give them a speed? Jodi the timetable has speed in it. Mr. Salvatore that number with the least. Mr. Salvatore will you impose that now as an upper limit. Jodi, no we have to test it first. Mr. Salvatore coming from Walpole to Foxboro would they be going slower, no they would be accelerating. The Switch is up at the Walpole end of the line. Mr. Salvatore so when it crosses Summer Street it will be accelerating. Jodi, yes. Foxboro station being the terminus. They have to stop to make the station. It is possible they will be going 60mph. Jodi, I do not believe so, that information will come out when we do the testing.

Mr. Salvatore is the crossing closer to Walpole or Foxboro? Mr. Salvatore, on the fencing issue can you describe the location distances. The fence will begin by the entrance to Spring St. parking lot, 12' off the track and go down to the Rt1A bridge, begin on the other side of 1A bridge, Audubon go down to power lines and other locations that were requested, by Cumberland Farms. The fence begins again at Summer Street off the crossing goes to the point before the RT1 bridge, behind Shufelt rd. The other side along post office there will be a guardrail. Mr. Salvatore Will there be a fence attached to that or not. Jody We can put a fence up. Mr. Salvatore kids may try to go over the guardrail. One of the things I look at was the lot, the other side of Summer Street from the post office, something so kids do not try to go around it. Jody, if you tell me you need a fence 50ft on each side we can do that.

Mr. Salvatore this is a PILOT program, when do we know that the PILOT is successful? Jim there are a few measures, looking at how much the operating cost vs. what is collected. Is it servicing new passengers, or just people going to a new location? Mr. Salvatore asked would you be making the determination through surveys. Mass Dot will have counting from passengers. Looking at License plates to see where they are coming from. They will look for if someone moved from Mansfield to Foxboro. Maybe someone that wanted to take the train will now be able. What is the timing? Jim Eng half way through. Will look at it after 11 months.

Mr. O'Neil, last summer the town took a look at the crossing. The ability for a train to stop. So if there was a car stuck on the track. Did you review that study. Jim Eng if the driver can see the car. The engineer cannot stop the train. Mr. O'Neil are you familiar with the report? Jim, there is no flow in that analysis, the crossing is designed, how soon do they need to put the gates down. How much time is to elapse through the time the gates go down. There is nothing wrong with the analysis, we design the way we have to. Mr. O'Neil would you be doing any simulations, regarding the issues that the Chief raised. Jim we can look at that. Even at a slower speed the amount of time that an engineer has to stop. Mr. O'Neil would like them to go back and look at what the Police Chief gave them. You should be able to give us information on that. You should lay that out in a simulation with different speeds. That would be smart to do. My concerns are for protection. You said we do not protect we warn, you need to consider protection. I really would ask that you do

simulation work. Jim we can do that during the PILOT, that happens every day, we have thousands of crossings every day.

We will preform the test. As part of the training of the engineers we can invite the Chief out there. Mr. O'Neil if the train is going 15 or 30 what does that translate to time. Mr. O'Neil as we have gone through this my concern is taking a lot of risk and I see no benefit from this for the town. You should be really listening to this. There are houses and school nearby. Jodi we believe there will be a benefit to Walpole with Parking.

Ms. Ragosta has any PILOT programs not been successful. Jodi, this is my first time. This is the first time we have done a PILOT. Ms. Ragosta, so it is a test run. This is the first time this has been done. Jim Eng there is a second PILOT that is going to take place this year. Mr. Eng I can't speak for the Board. You don't go out and build a service. Put more trains out here, the number of trains going through are very limited, to just see if there is a PILOT that works. The PILOT to Cape cod. It is still running after 6 yrs. Ms. Ragosta is the MBTA investment that failure will not be an option. It is different that what is normally done.

Ms. Ragosta asked if this would impact our assessment? They don't know that answer.

Mr. Gallivan you are talking about education, what would you need to connect to the schools? There is a nationwide program, operation lifesaver, taught all across the country. It is used everywhere, taught, by one of our safety people or training a police officer or fire fighter. We offer to do this. Basics of what happens at a grade crossing.

Mr. Gallivan pointed out the chairman of the School Committee and new superintendent of schools are present. We try to do it near the start. The trains go a lot faster through other areas in Walpole. Mr. Gallivan what can you do to communicate with the people living closer to the tracks. We have had a lot of emails going back and forth. I think we are up to 11, 000 feet, we are trying to make sure we are doing what needs to be done. Certain people that were aware this was happening. If you follow Facebook. Anything we can do to increase communication.

Mrs. Mackenzie does not think it should be a one and done, new kids come in every year. We should not be doing this.

Rep Dooley, How much of the revenue will cover the operating cost? Jody, Parking revenue and onboard revenue and how much that will cover. The goal it would have to be in the same range as other stations. Increase ridership. Use the parking spaces available. Help to deal with high levels of demand.

Rep Dooley, I assume you have broken out. Jody It will be very specific to this line, funds generated by this service. It will be passengers from Foxboro. Rep Dooley that gets done outside. You said only 6 trains a day. Jody there will be three in the morning four outbound in the afternoon and 1. So it is 8 not 6. REP Dooley is that locked in the entire PILOT. I don't think the Board is worried about the train as it enters that crossing it be 30mph. We have a lot of kids that use that track. Lets try to work out a way to do that.

Rep Dooley they are worried about kids not paying attention. I will be asking from the Walpole delegation, number one concern is safety of the kids, especially it being new. Jody the first couple of months we can phase it.

Senator Feeney I think you are asking all the right questions. Communication is important. It has been difficult getting information. I want to be sure, is there part of the PILOT program to get input from the TA, Police Chief, formalized process. Jody I don't know the answer to that question. We only know about the 2 measurements the board has asked for. We can ask the question what is the process? Senator Feeley the Town of Walpole is going to have input after three months.

Jody, I will take back to the planning Board. Are we making a difference?

Senator Feeley is there anywhere in the system where the trains speeds are lower? Jody there is speed restrictions, Rt16 in West Medford. Next to station platform very busy crossing. There is some in Chelsea. At second Ave, and Spruce. Senator Feeley how do you measure if it is a success or not. Jodi we will drive through the lots, and look where they are from.

Mrs. Mackenzie do you have an advertising budget for this PILOT. Jodi I don't know. That would be marketing dept. Can you get us how much that will cost? How is that going to impact parents and busses? The gates should be down about a minute. That could impact our schools and buses.

Bill Buckley School Chairman Joined by Bridget Goth the new Supt of schools. The earliest possible you can get us these schedules. We will find the time to educate the children.

Bridget with regards to the training all of our students need to be trained, need to get together to get this training. This should be a yearly event. Regular routine. Three are already two officers that are being trained.

Joanne Mulligan wants to thank rep Dooley as I think he answered some questions. I think it is going to cross 16 times. I do not think this is stopping at Ruggels or Back Bay. I do think to Selectmen Gallivan, neighbors do not know that the train will not stop. Talked about the freight trains and their slow speed. Joanne talked about the switch. The Trains cannot idle overnight. Jody no. Joanne as far as CSX goes and tracks getting improved. Do we expect we will have more freight trains going through? Jim CSX does not have more trains, just longer trains. Jody the trains that go through Walpole end up in Quincy, New Bedford, Cape Cod.

Joanne just being a good neighbor, I think once it starts.

Jodi we can come back out in a couple of months.

Mark Sullivan, will the Foxboro station will that be a zone 4. Jodi I think they are looking at Zone 5. I take the trains every morning and cars drive over the tracks every day at Walpole Station. Jodi there will be an active warning.

Concerned that the traffic could get backed up. Has anyone looked at the traffic patterns? We put up signs do not stop on the track. His fear is that people will get stuck on the track. They are not supposed to stop on the track.

Willa live in precinct 5 I think we need operation lifesaver for adults. Does the MBTA have a policy as how long they keep that data? Jody I do not know the answer to that. I can get the answer to that for you. All you ever get from having a train is having a train. I would suggest to you if you work with the town getting a sidewalk along winter street to the Train Station.

Cliff Snuffer, I want to have a greater emphasis, are you here to assure us there will be no layovers. Period. Jody there are not in this PILOT. These trains park in Boston. Jody NO not at all. Talked about lawyers in Framingham that wanted this PILOT. Jody about 12 years ago the parking in Walpole was overcrowded, those parking spaces were taken away, huge outcry to find more parking, can we get access to the parking in Foxboro. Spaces are not being used, how much to build parking garages. That was 12 yrs. ago. Number of evaluations, Jacobs engineering study. Service that could use that line. Move the station from Walpole closer to the CVS. That was dismissed, the other study done by some group looked at a much more scaled down. Mr. Snuffer for this work there is a need for speed. Jodi passengers want to get there the fastest possible way. There was no Y at the Train Station, that by going with the need for speed, and understanding that you have created an opportunity for our citizens to get hurt.

Tom Brady this is a PILOT program, do we have other meetings in at that time if we need more safety items. It is clear any plan you bring into town it seems that you don't care about safety. My question is that you are pushing this on pilot. Can you come back? Can you present something to the senate for them to get funding for more safety.

Kathy Carney, Audubon Drive. We put in a in ground pool. Fence at Cumberland farms, considering a fence on Cumberland to deter kids and adults to use the tracks. Other locations. Who has priority on the tracks, we have had problems in the past where the CSX train is sitting there. Jodi scheduled train has priority. If there is a passenger train scheduled train. Is there an idling time for these trains? Jodi passenger train gets stuck for two hours. Trains cannot idle for more than 30 minutes. The PILOT is M-F. I am a distance from the Walpole Station, will the train be sounding the horn, and they are required to do so when there is a grade crossing.

Rosemary concerned parent there are a ton of kids who walk there. I know that S. Walpole if you are less than 2 miles you pay for the bus, there are kids that walk. How can you say that it is more important for speed than safety of kids? Kids running out of school and know you are throwing a train in. These are 6 years old. You need to really rethink this. Look at the bus schedule, busses were stuck there.

Kathleen Cleary , Shufelt rd. , when do you plan to watch the busses at the crossing. There are no buses in June, when you did it. You do have commuter lines that have a max of 10mph. You are planning on doing this at 60 mph. Jodi no. The town of Gloucester has 5 10 mph.

Scott Ferguson, the switch is in my neighbor's backyard. I ride the Franklin train everyday. In your quest for speed I can tell you how many times I have sat when the train does idle for a couple of hours. We have 12 kids under 10 years old in the neighborhood. You said this train will not connect to Mansfield. But I believe that it will. I think it will connect to providence.

Mr. Gallivan I appreciate you coming. I'll have Mr. Johnson contact you to meet in a couple of months.

Mr. Salvatore I think we all from the beginning feel it is not a good plan, it benefits only Kraft. We have been concerned about safety. The MBTA has addressed a lot of concerns. Having fences on both sides will help keep those kids out and will let them know that this is not a cut through. It is going to mess up our buses.

Mrs. Mackenzie I think you know how I feel about the project, sink the crossing below ground. The fencing is great, but not a good neighbor. I really don't want to be I told you so when someone gets hurt.

Mr. O'Neil I have asked you a number of questions and hope you will bring back the answer. I think you can slow the train down. You have heard a lot of feedback. Listen to what they said. Safety issue. I think we need to discuss what is happening at the Walpole train station. I am not comfortable.

Ms. Ragosta the theme demonstrates of Walpole, this has a real live impact and a disservice to the residents of Walpole, and not looking at the human toll that it takes.

Mr. Johnson appreciates Jodi and Jim coming here. I have been in touch with the School dept.

MOTION Moved by Mr. Salvatore to adjourn at 9:56pm, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie,
VOTED 5-0-0