

Great Barrington Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes – 11/12/19

DRAFT

Meeting opened at 5:40

Present:

Michelle Loubert, Jamie Minacci, Tate Coleman, Bill Cooke,
Garfield Reed, Pat Konecky, Deb Phillips

Approval of minutes:

Sept – Deb moved to accept, Bill seconded, approval unanimous
(Garfield abstained due to absence)

July – Tate moved to accept, Bill seconded, approval unanimous
(Garfield and Deb abstained due to absence)

Election of Officers:

Chair: Tate Coleman – nominated by Bill, second Deb,
unanimous

Vice Chair: Rene Wood – nominated Deb, second Pat,
unanimous

Clerk: Deb Phillips – nominated Tate, second Bill – unanimous

Treasurer: Pat Konecky – nominated Tate, second Garfield -
unanimous

Events Chair: Ann Condon – nominated Tate, second, Deb -
unanimous

BRCCOT representative: Bill Cooke – nominated Tate, second
Garfield – unanimous

Public Relations Officer – vacant – decided to divide the
position and Ann agreed to be Communications Offices

Communications officer: Ann Condon – nominated Tate,
second Bill – unanimous

Social Media – Tate Coleman will do this temporarily; we
will look for a student intern

The Committee is still in need of representatives from Lee and
Lenox

Report from BRTA Board Meeting and discussion

A slate of changes was reported approved including eliminating

the express evening service to Great Barrington and its replacement with a GB circulator every hour and 10 minutes between 6:15 PM and 9:50 PM including Simon's Rock; the decision to cancel the express bus came after 6 weeks of ridership

Original plan was for a circulator during the day also, but this was not on the slate of changes brought to the BRTA Board meeting

No one actually remembers a vote taken on this decision

There was a lot of discussion about BRTAs lack of commitment to South Berkshire county and their refusal to allow enough time for people to start using a service before discontinuing it especially without any promotion.

We will have to take on publicity for any route we want to see maintained

Pat suggested a letter of concern from the committee addressing the following:

- 6 months to test a run before making a decision to cancel
- protest the decision to cut the evening run from Pittsfield
- priority to continue circulator beyond 6 months due to Simon's Rock vacation schedule
- and lack of publicity

Plan:

Request data on the 21 route before it is cancelled to convince BRTA of the foolishness of their decision to cancel

Draft a letter to get signatures on requesting a comprehensive plan for South County for 1 year – include DOT, BRTA, and our elected representatives in this and note the environmental justice areas in the routes – this includes public housing, nursing homes, supermarkets

Engage employers in a campaign for better bus service

Contact our elected representatives to help us

Make a plan for publicizing south county routes to insure ridership

Meeting adjourned at 6:30