

Final Minutes- 12 September 2019

Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting called to order at 6:30. Attendees: Jamie Minacci, Deb Phillips, Tate Coleman, Ann Condon, Bill Cooke, Pat Konecky. Minutes of the June 27 meeting were approved.

BCC Forum: Tate is doing two forums at BCC on October 7 4:30 - 5:30 and 10th 12:15 - 1:15 on updates on the PTAC initiative, and the route optimization, possibly with Bob Malnati promoting BRTA as well.

New Members Deb Phillips, Jamie Minacci. Jamie is non voting pending swearing in. Committee now has 8 voting members.

BCC night service update. The change to later service for last hour connection was announced the week before classes. Increased ridership might be minimal because change was announced so late. BRTA might discontinue the 21X in the future if numbers stay low. They're considering a GB circulating route instead. The committee agreed that it was necessary for BRTA to continue service long enough for a better sample. The PTAC committee discussed sending BRTA a letter about this, or letters from select boards. Bill C offered to raise the issue at the next BRTA meeting. Deb made a motion that Bill speak for this committee at the BRTA meeting and that we ask GB select board to send a letter to BRTA. Tate seconded and amended that Bill will ask Mark Pruhenski to send the letter. All in favor; unanimous.

BRTA provided a cost estimate that included Sheffield, Egremont and Cultural loop numbers with what we'd had as phase 1. We don't yet have a cost estimate for just (cost neutral) phase 1. Bill will ask Mark to include request for breakout of numbers in the same letter as above. Tate will provide info for breakdown. Tate will meet with Smitty in early October and could asked for assistance if needed. Item 5 of agenda postponed till estimates are received.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Tate worked with Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO) this summer helping to initiate a driver program in the county. BIO is working with retired seniors in Pittsfield and Berkshire Community Action Council. Program, is similar to the VIM driver program but for general public and for all purposes. Deb asked if Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation has been considered? Tate has reached out. Deb will help him connect.

National Association of Public Transportation Advocates (NAPTA), free membership, no commitments. Basically a matter of signing up to be kept informed. Deb moved that the PTAC become a member; Tate seconded. Unanimously approved. We will join as a committee.

Western Mass Transportation Forum will be Friday the 13th in Northampton in the morning. None of the committee members present are available to attend. Elected and administrators will be there. Tate will ask Peg McDonough and/or Karen Christianson to represent us and/or to report back on our behalf. Anne pointed out that it would likely be taped.

T4MA, the town would join as a member community. No obligation and no cost but would get us into the network of transportation advocates. We are already part of the RTA advocates coalition. We can ask our towns to join and have the information link through our Green Communities. T4MA was largely responsible for the increase in funding for the RTA's this year. Bill will check on where the new funding is going for the BRTA. We voted to recommend that Mark Pruhenski join T4MA. All agreed. Deb suggested that we ask other towns present at this committee to ask their town administrators to ask for membership as well. This motion was supported. This committee is missing Lee and Lenox representation in terms of all towns receiving BRTA service.

Tate attended webinar for workforce transportation. That grant program has about \$ 4.6 million and requires a 20% local match but we couldn't apply till next year (September). The Lenox rep, Ed Lane, to this committee is interested in assisting with this, particularly for local workforce. He is the chairman of the Lenox Selectboard and on the BRTA. It may be possible that the 20% comes from the RTA. This is better than 5310, the community development grant where Tate attended an info session. 5310 requires a 50/50 funding match.

BRTA Advisory Board Update- Bill C. Reported that BRTA will be reviewing financials at their next meeting. Bill is sending Tate a copy of the packet.

Rene will be asked to be the notetaker for the next meeting. Tate will send a doodle poll about meeting in October on either Friday the 4th, or the 11th.

Pat requested a list of transportation related organizations in Massachusetts. Deb will begin with a local list. Tate was reading about a town in MA that did work similar to ours and will provide information. Tate mentioned other Public Transportation Advisory Committees in Massachusetts - Pat will check.

Tate will send out a list of committee positions or tasks that others could take on. Deb suggested that we consider Vista volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Submitted by Pat Konecky