

"Draft"

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda

Town of Great Barrington, MA

Location: Online
To Join Remotely:
Link: <https://meet.google.com/udj-hbxy-zuw>
Telephone & Password: tel:+1-502-518-3336, PIN: 871351186

Date: Wednesday, 14 September 2022

Time: 6:30 pm

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's July, 16, 2022 Revised Order extending remote participation by all members in any meeting of a public body, this meeting of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on town's website, at www.townofgb.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: See instructions at the top of the agenda. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.

Minutes:

Present:

Board Members: Tate Coleman, Deb Phillips, Bill Cooke, Justin Wald

Others: James Garzone, Michelle Loubert

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM

- I. Election of officers (discussion/vote) (6:40) – see packet
 - a. ~~Chairman~~
 - b. ~~Vice Chairman~~
 - c. ~~Secretary~~

- d. Treasurer
- e. Events Chair
- f. BRCCOT Representative
- g. ~~BRTA Representative — John Morrell~~
- h. Towns missing: Egremont, Lee, Monterey, Sandisfield, New Marlborough]

Should be able to get an update from John Morell at our meeting next month – BRTA board is meeting this month

II. Tri-Town Microtransit Pilot (6:50)

a. Next Steps

- i. Launch date may be postponed to May 2023 due to various issues

Received word from Mass DOT that they want the work to begin now so there will be a negotiation; we would prefer to start sooner so we can start slowly and get staffing in place

Additional \$2,000 is all set and signed by the governor and should be here before the end of 2023

Total funding = \$387,000

Total budget = @ \$500,000 with the senior transportation funding

Hopeful for Community Transit Program grant for the technology though we can go ahead without it; should hear in October

BRTA has given permission for use of vehicles whenever we deem necessary – waiting for written confirmation. Seniors and people with disabilities will be prioritized.

We have 3 vehicles and are awaiting a 4th.

We will be posting jobs:

- ii. Looking for an Operations Manager! (F/T)

Looking for supervisors and drivers

These job descriptions need to be finalized and will be posted soon

Anuja at BRPC will be available to assist with the project

Have support from the Quobog Connector in Ware as well as other similar programs across the county

III. Bus Stop Shelter Project Update (7:25)

- a. 2 shelters– expected within next couple months
 - b. Need to follow-up with new DPW Superintendent
 - c. Have not received notice to proceed from Mass DOT for upgrading 32 bus stops – we have received funding. Right now this will be done through our DPW by end of calendar year 2023 -trying to find ways to include wayfinding and micro transit into this program
- Gabrielle Brussels as agreed to provide technical assistance for this project

IV. Vocational Education Transportation – FY2023 Update (7:30)

- a. Successfully resolved -CRT offered a contract at 50% more than last year plus 2 other offers. All 4 students are no longer planning on attending Taconic Vocational program. One student still going and she has her own transportation.

CRT will be available if we need them next year

V. Treasurer's Report (7:40)

- a. FY2023 Budget: \$1,000.00
- b. Anticipated costs: Mar – May 2023

If start of microtransit is delayed until May, we need to do an update of our public input at the end of this year to assure that we are still addressing need appropriately and this will require funding; if we start in January, we are close enough to the original survey to base our planning on that

VI. Chair's Report - Tate C. (7:50)

- a. BRTA Board Representative – FY 2023
- b. Tate C. now Western Region Rep on APA-MA Board of Directors

Nominations for best planner is coming up – thoughts?

Tate is working on transportation access to food study with MA

DOT – will connect with Jenny Schwartz to get local input

VII. Citizen's Speak (7:55)

Commentary on BRTA arbitrary cancellation of bus routes – dispatch alerts challenging to find on the BRTA website

Michele Loubert and James Garzone emphasized the importance of reliable public transportation and encouraged activity to assure that this happens]

This is not acceptable, particularly with winter coming

Michele Loubert and James Garzone asked the shelters become a priority to care for the vulnerable people who ride the bus

Can we invite Smitty Pignatelli to our next meeting to discuss the cancellation of bus runs – Bill and Deb will invite him

Deb Phillips moved to authorize Tate to send a letter to the new DPW to assure that the shelters are in place before winter

Second by Justin Wald

Role call vote – unanimous

Michele Loubert thanks the committee for their hard work

VIII. Adjourn Meeting (8:00)

Next meeting October 12 at 6:30

Motion to adjourn at 7:37 – second by Justin

Unanimous agreement

PLEASE NOTE—AGENDA ITEM TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE. PLEASE
PLAN TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR AGENDA
ITEM'S SCHEDULED TIME.