

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts

MINUTES for the board meeting of Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at
6:30PM

Meeting called to order at 6:51 PM

Present: Tate Coleman, Deb Phillips (at large), Bill Cooke (citizen at large), Hannah Walton (GB), Jamie Minacci (Stockbridge), Gabrielle Brusseau (citizen at large), George McGurn (Egremont).

Absent: Bill Barth (West Stockbridge), Justin Wald (Sheffield), Ben Eliot (GB), Lyn Saberski (Monterey),

Board positions (review/discussion) (6:40)

- Treasurer - Open position
- Unrepresented towns: Lee, Lenox, Sandisfield and New Marlborough

Tri-Town Micro transit Pilot update (6:50)

- Update on progress, ridership report – October down @1% from September – decreased number of drivers and vehicles for most of the month

The main issue continues to be staffing -lost 2 full time drivers and 1 part time driver.

Under scheduled by 115 hours

Currently 4 operable vehicles – one going into the shop soon.

5th vehicle is out from an accident.

Ride requests are outstripping capacity.

How do we manage expectations?

Up to mid-October 50% of rides were same day; when we started losing drivers, we lost the capacity to meet that demand as effectively.

Riders have been stranded; how do we keep this from happening? This should improve with the new software.

Communities served are GB, Egremont, Stockbridge, Monterey, West Stockbridge and serves anywhere in those towns.

Request to invite the GB Town Manager/Assistant Town Manager to come to a meeting to explain the role.

Compliance review update

Recommendations regarding cash handling and we will be installing fare boxes in the vans during the fare free period.

- Future/structure of the micro transit program.

Shortly the state will release decisions about 2025 funding; applying for additional funding to add 3-4 full time drivers. (\$450,000 over 2 years from Innovation Fund). Looking for letters of support. Deb will request from community partners. Coop Market will start selling Tritown tickets starting in December; will offer purchase of books of tickets to be donated to those in need. In-town, multi-town, and work force tickets. Looking for RTAC volunteers to table at the Coop to kick off the collaboration week of December 17. Plan to find more locations to sell tickets in the new year.

- Bus shelter art contest – discussion – table for now – to discuss late winter/early spring. Connect to grand opening of bus shelters in the spring?

Treasurer's report (7:30)

- Expenses
- Anticipated costs

New & old business (7:40)

Website update – Bill to connect with Chris Rembold

BRTA has proposed significant service increases except for South County – added 1 express trip at 7:30 PM; Tate has recommended adding this during the day rather than the evening. BRTA.com for anyone interested in offering their own comments. The public comment meeting is Friday, November 17 from 11-12. An effort will be made to get the word out.

Citizen's speak.

Next meeting:

Wednesday December 20 at 6:30 PM

Adjourn meeting at 7:52

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Phillips