Great Barrington Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes – 11/12/19

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 Officers
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 BRTA’s 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