Great Barrington Public Transportation Advisory Committee – March 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM via Google Hangout

Present: Tate, Ann, Jamie, Pat, Bill, Deb
Notification of recording – all agree

Tasks to be done:
Tate will attach the updated response to 1Berkshire survey
Ann to work on bus stops and loops to accommodate downtown stops - Railroad Street going north or Bridge street to Church Street going south –
Bill to arrange pre-forum meeting with Bob Malnati to include Pat and Jamie
Tate to reach out to Simon’s Rock to assure they follow up on change in needs in light of COVID-19
Deb to update BRTA on the circulator bus

Meeting called to order at 6:33

I. Approval of minutes – postpone until
II. GB Circulator Route Update (6:35) Ridership from Jan 1 through last Friday and it is looking good
January – 11, Feb -15 customers through service day (dropped off after the schedule and pick up spot were changed and then climbed again, beginning of March often 20-30 people/day, even during Simon’s Rock break (as many as 20 people/day); many SR students stayed through break until March 20
Concerned that this will decrease due to cessation of Simon’s Rock classes for the rest of the semester and there is less activity because of COVID-19
BRTA uses appropriate products for COVID-19 but many still do not want to take the risk
Pat - motion to send a letter to BRTA that we are encouraged by ridership but data can no longer be deemed accurate due to the fact that Simon’s Rock went on break March 6 and the COVID virus is limiting travel
Second - Tate
Pat, aye, Ann, aye, Deb, yes, Bill, aye, Jamie, ayes, Tate, aye, unanimous
Deb - Motion to cc Smitty Pignatelli on correspondence with BRTA
Second – Bill
Deb, aye, Pat, aye, Jamie, aye, Ann, aye, Tate, aye – unanimous
Tate has set up a Google classroom and invited all committee members to access materials and plans; please accept the invitation

III. Simon’s Rock partnership update – don’t know how Simon’s Rock will manage their arrangement with BRTA and we can anticipate a decrease in service to Simon’s Rock.
Tate will call Simon’s Rock to recommend they follow up with BRTA
IV. Route Optimization Initiative
Bill to provide BRTA with an overview of our request rather than the detailed schedule – will get to this in the next month
How to ride the bus video on hold until the virus has quieted down – will work on creating it

V. Chair’s report
RSYP/CHP partnership has not gone anywhere – will address after the COVID-19 crisis
BRTA scheduled forum has been postponed until April 30; our goal was public outreach to gain involvement in route optimization; recommendation to meet with Bob Malnati prior to the April 30 forum to assure that our needs are represented; unanimous agreement
Bill will work on arranging this; Pat and Jamie would be happy to join or submit input, whichever works
Rene Wood resigned from this committee and the BRTA – Tate is trying to recruit someone else from Sheffield; new opening on the committee. Still need Lee representative, Lenox representative, citizen-at-large (1)
Re-assign bus stop sign location project for Great Barrington – complaints about inadequate signage – either too many or too much distance between signs; concern about the bus stop across from Cumberland Farms
BRTA needs 4 parking spaces for a bus stop; discussion of looping Railroad Street going north or Church Street to Bridge street going south – Ann will work on this
1Berkshire TMA Survey/Request for comment – completed by Tate
See attached final response
Berkshire Earth Expo will be happening in October and looking for volunteers – will discuss at a later date

VI. Met with Sustainability & Livability Committee and will work together to promote public transportation

Recording to be on the website

Motion to adjourn at 7:34 – Deb
Second - Pat