



Town of Sudbury

<https://sudbury.ma.us/transportation/>

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, February 19, 2021

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Sandy Lasky, Alice Sapienza, Debra Galloway, Dan Nason, Doug Frey

Core Members Absent: Adam Duchesneau

Advisory Group Present:

Advisory Group Absent: Charlie Dunn, Scott Nix, Beth Suedmeyer, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Ellen Joachim, Lisa Kouchakdjian

Guests: Linda Faust

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:33am. After doing a roll call Dan C made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV for future viewing.

Selection of Clerk

Dan volunteered to take meeting minutes. He let group know that he was recording the meeting locally on his computer to assist in putting together meeting minutes later.

Council on Aging Mitigation Funds

Sandy informed committee that the Council on Aging offered another \$5,000 from their Meadow-Walk Mitigation funds for the taxi program for medical and vaccination related rides.

Go Sudbury! Uber Program

Alice updated the group that she, Deb, and Ana Christina Oliveira have been working with Uber on technical difficulties primarily related to the geofence. She appreciated the efforts of Ana Christina and Uber to work through the issues. Deb updated that Ana Christina spoke with one pilot participant that could book a longer distance ride, but the shorter Sudbury and contiguous towns rides were causing difficulty. Alice said she would report back when Uber has fixed the issues. Deb noted that she and Ana Christina would report out to pilot users the status as warranted. Doug noted there was difficulty for people that need assistance. Linda Faust offered up her user experience as well. Dan C

offered as a frequent Uber user he could try to sign up as well and thanked everyone for their efforts thus far.

Second MAPC Grant Status

Alice started by noting that January saw a higher-than-expected ridership. She opined that even with the additional \$5,000 from the Council on Aging we may be facing a situation where we need to pause the program and offered options to be considered to stretch our remaining funds. In addition, she noted that the MAPC received many more requests in this round of grant funding than in the last and reminded group that this money was to be split across multiple towns

Dan suggested that we table the dispatch discussion until next meeting when Adam would be present Alice noted that she and Deb had discussed sustainability of programs like this. Dan stated that transportation had been scored as a high priority goal of the Select Board and that when this Committee felt they were ready he would get it on a Select Board agenda for discussion. He mentioned that he had to get it on a future agenda and volunteered to try to do so in March. Deb added that users may find it frustrating with program going down and coming back up and that the new grant should be managed with the rider in mind. Dan suggested that he and Deb work in parallel with Deb informing Town Manager Hayes that this was coming while Dan contacted the Select Board Chair. Sandy stated that even with the challenges she felt this program has been a success and we should report it as such. Sandy offered to help with any presentations as needed.

MAPC COVID-19 Taxicab, Livery, Hackney Transportation Partnership Grant and Taxi Program a.k.a. the “Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides Program”

Conversation then pivoted to how we may stretch the taxi program into March given limited funds. Alice and Deb suggested restricting destination, the frequency of rides, the financial need of riders, and perhaps the types of rides and combinations thereof. Linda Faust inquired as to how prioritization may be done. Sandy stated the importance of getting people to COVID vaccination sites but noted that some of them were far away and this should be taken into consideration. Deb offered that she had applied for a \$2,000 BayPath Elder Services grant for vaccination rides of any distance. Sandy asked about other funding options; Dan said perhaps the Sudbury Foundation may be an option and perhaps it was time to start discussing them and other options.

Dan clarified that currently we were restricting rides for medical purposes and if this were to continue in March, he did not see that changing. He also stated that the unfortunate truth is we cannot run this program into a deficit and thus a gap in service may be unavoidable, until we can get the next round of grant funding in hand. Deb stated she was not sure exactly where we were in the ‘burn rate’ of available funds but thought that the \$5,000 from the Council on Aging may be used up in February. Dan stated that he would ask Adam for clarification of current funding balance including the \$5,000 from Council on Aging, the \$2,000 pending BayPath grant and the \$5,000 that Committee had already reallocated from the Uber program. He also suggested that the Committee authorize Adam to pause the program if required. Alice stated that group should meet next week; Dan agreed but wanted to ensure that we could pause if needed between now and then. Doug inquired about how much of the total Meadow Walk mitigation funding may be left; Alice and Deb thought there may be \$50,000 to \$60,000 left but it was controlled by the Council on Aging and we should have a longer-term plan before we ask them for more. Sandy asked if a waiting list was possible should we pause the

program. Deb acknowledged the benefit but noted that it put the riders in limbo. Linda Faust inquired if those on the wait list would have priority if and when funding came back. Dan acknowledged Linda but stated he did not yet have the answer. Dan noted that Adam's presence at the next meeting is important and asked that the Committee be flexible with the time of the meeting to try to match up with his availability.

Go Sudbury! Survey

Alice suggested the committee take a "Plus Delta" approach to the final feedback survey of riders: This asks what worked well and what should be changed to be more effective. She felt two open ended questions would probably suffice given the small user population. Sandy noted the small population but suggested an additional question or two about satisfaction with program and any issues then the two open ended questions. Sandy volunteered to do a first draft of survey then she would send to Alice. Dan noted that we would also need to get the statistical data to MAPC. Alice agreed and said that we needed to report in one-way rides and not round trips. Sandy asked group if anyone had the original postcard survey; Deb thought she had it and said she would forward to Sandy.

Next Meeting

The group agreed that the next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, February 26th, at 10:30 AM.

Member Updates / Administrative Updates / Upcoming Events:

Deb informed group that the Sudbury Connection vans have started running again. Driver training is in process but one van would provide rides Mon, Wed, and Fri next week. Linda asked if they would be restricted to medical rides and Deb confirmed that they would be restricted to medical rides and one rider at a time. Doug offered that MassHealth announced they would provide free rides for vaccinations for MassHealth subscribers.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 29 meeting were approved as amended. Alice made the motion to approve, seconded by Deb and approved 5-0 by a rollcall vote with Dan Nason abstaining.

The minutes of the Feb 5 meeting were approved. Alice made the motion to approve, seconded by Doug and approved 5-0 by a rollcall vote with Dan Nason abstaining.

Adjournment

Sandy moved to adjourn, Deb seconded, and the motion passed 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM.