



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, March 12, 2021

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Sandy Lasky, Alice Sapienza, Deb Galloway, Doug Frey, Adam Duchesneau (joined approximately 5 minutes into meeting)

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason

Advisory Group Present:

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

Guests: Kay Bell, Ana Christina Oliveira

Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:32. 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

Deb Galloway volunteered to take meeting minutes. Sandy Lasky asked if we could get a copy of the live transcript to help us do minutes. Deb Galloway noted that Ana Christina Oliveira from the Senior Center was present at the meeting. Dan Carty noted that the meeting with the Select Board would be Tuesday March 23rd.

New MAPC Grant

Alice said we were about to send back the signed contract for the MAPC grant so if anyone had changes or recommendations, they should get them in as it was due next week. She then noted that our share would be approximately \$33,000 and laid out what that would mean in terms of number and type of trips. The group opined on what type of rides could be offered given the anticipated funds and that since Beth Perry (Planning Department) would not be available to book rides we would likely need outside dispatch services. Discussion ensued about WAV wheelchair rides and how to ensure they remained available. Adam noted that we were trying to stretch the MAPC grant money and that mitigation funds were still available to possibly supplement this program. Doug suggested that rather than set a monthly limit on number and type of rides we use the funds until they

run out. Dan agreed. Alice reminded the committee that we had to maintain the four categories of riders and Deb suggested that we prioritize medical rides. Sandy asked if we used the CrossTown Connect external dispatch services, could they divert certain riders to the Uber program once up and running or to the Senior Center vans. Adam said we would have to check with CrossTown Connect. After further discussion Dan Carty motioned to keep the MAPC categories as-is, Alice seconded, and group unanimously voted in the affirmative.

Discussion ensued about other funding sources and sustainability of this program. Dan noted that he was researching the Sudbury Foundation and Cummings grants but also that we would be meeting with the Select Board and Town Manager on March 23.

Go Sudbury! Uber Program

Alice reported that the technical geofencing issues seem to be resolved but they triggered other issues. The program was put on pause as the software team solved the problems and would reopen with a couple of strong pilot users. Deb recommended a couple of individuals to trial the program before we would open it back up. Sandy asked if we were using geofence based on mileage or contiguous towns; Alice stated contiguous towns.

Alice noted that reservations could not be made via Uber voucher services as they could with a taxi or higher-end Uber programs; matching software by Uber to find available drives was not utilized until one hour in advance of the requested pickup time. Also, there was no guarantee of having drivers available until there has been a reliably consistent demand. Dan noted that this was a trial, and we would learn many things including limitations of Uber. Adam inquired about how we could monitor Uber usage and Alice noted we had an administrative dashboard with information continuously updated.

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

Dan reported that the \$5,000 mitigation money Sandy had requested from the Council on Aging had been approved at the last Select Board meeting. Discussion ensued and group agreed that this money was to be used for medical taxi rides. Deb Galloway experienced technical difficulty and got bounced out of the Zoom. Dan inquired as to the deliverable we had to MAPC for our rider feedback final report and Adam stated it was due March 19. Deb then got back into the Zoom. Deb said she had received some feedback but would inquire with the remaining users.

Discussion on Upcoming Select Board Joint Meeting

Dan repeated that we were on the schedule for March 23 at a time to be determined. He then screen-shared the draft of the “GoSudbury Transportation Program” PowerPoint file. Sandy suggested that we mention the upcoming Uber program as well to ask for funds to sustain the overall program. Dan noted that his hope was this would be a first discussion and being a high-priority goal, we would certainly be on future agendas as well. Alice walked through the presentation deck and solicited feedback for potential edits. Doug inquired as to possibility of getting Sudbury access to the MBTA’s The Ride. Alice offered to take conversation offline with Doug as she had recently talked to

Aniko Laszlo, MBTA Director of Coordinated Mobility. Dan shared that he planned on posting as a joint Transportation and Select Board meeting, as he expected a quorum from our Committee to be present.

Schedule Upcoming Meetings

The group agreed that the next Transportation Committee meeting after the joint meeting with the Select Board would be Friday, March 26th at 10:30 AM.

Member Updates / Administrative Updates / Upcoming Events / Public Comment

Dan thanked Ana Christina for all her help to date.

Review and approval of Meeting Minutes

Dan shared the minutes for February 19, 2021 with edits highlighted. Dan motioned to approve, Deb seconded, and by roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Dan shared the minutes for February 26, 2021 and walked through each page asking for edits. With no edits suggested Dan motioned to approve, Doug seconded, and by roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Alice moved to adjourn, Sandy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.