



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, September 10, 2021

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Sandy Lasky, Alice Sapienza, Doug Frey, Adam Duchesneau, Debra Galloway

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason

Guests: Mary Warzynski (Lincoln Sudbury School Committee), Kay Bell, Linda Faust

Dan Carty noted that some members were having issues getting into the Zoom meeting. Once a quorum arrived Dan Carty announced that the statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with he was convening the meeting. Dan Carty made an announcement that this was a public meeting, the meeting was being recorded via Zoom for future viewing, and therefore there should be no expected right to privacy. He noted that SudburyTV was not yet present but again the meeting was being recorded for them to use on their website. A roll call was taken and Core members Carty, Lasky, Sapienza, and Frey were present. Dan Carty noted that Dan Nason was starting a multi-month class that meets on Fridays so he will likely miss our meetings. He also noted that Deb Galloway and Adam Duchesneau were having issues getting into the Zoom.

Dan Carty volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Adam Duchesneau entered the Zoom and announced his presence.

Dan Carty noted that the Committee should plan on attending the October 19 meeting of the Sudbury Select Board and that there was much work to be done to prepare. He reminded members to get sworn in by the Town Clerk if they had not yet done so. The August 26 meeting of Making the Connections was mentioned, and Dan noted that he could not make it but hoped that Adam and Alice would give the Committee updates. Dan noted that in a previous meeting a question was asked if we could use Uber's graphics or data from our Go Sudbury! dashboard and that Uber noted that we could do so. He then mentioned that the Committee had received an email about transporting Metco students and that as long as the parameters of the Go Sudbury! Uber or taxi programs were followed they certainly were eligible for rides.

On the subject of emails from the public Dan asked the Committee what they thought about setting up an email auto-responder that said if people were inquiring about the Uber or taxi programs here is

information, they may find helpful. The Committee seemed to think this was a good idea and Dan stated that he would discuss with IT Director Mark Thompson about setting one up.

At this point of the meeting Deb Galloway joined and announced her presence.

Dan noted that he could not stay much past 11:30 today and that Doug Frey would have to leave our meeting at approximately 11:15.

Alice noted that the AARP had sent her information about a state Community Compact grant and inquired with the Committee what they thought about applying for it. She stated that it could be as much as \$200,000 and we could enlarge it to our partner Making the Connection towns to possibly use. Dan noted he had issues finding the document that Alice had sent so Adam volunteered to share the document on his screen. Alice stated we could possibly use it for one-time capital needs like development of software or incidental costs like training. Deb inquired as to when we had to reply by, and Alice stated October 15. Sandy asked about the downsides to the grant and Adam stated that it would take quite a bit of effort to put together and that we after two years are only a quarter of the way through our initial \$80,000 Community Compact grant money. Thus, he felt we could be better off focusing our efforts on making the programs we have better. He also felt we should go for money that would convert directly into getting people rides. Alice noted this was a very important point. After further discussion Dan suggested that we focus on getting ready for the October 19 Select Board meeting.

Dan noticed at this point that Lynn Puorro from SudburyTV had joined the meeting, that he had started the live stream functionality, and again noted that the meeting was being recorded so SudburyTV could use the cloud recording rather than the live stream if it better suited their needs. He also noted Mary Warzynski of Old Garrison Road and the Lincoln Sudbury School Committee was in the audience. A quick recap of the Metco student discussion from earlier was given and Dan offered to meet with Mary offline to discuss further.

Kay Bell of 348 Old Lancaster Road was recognized; she asked about Adam's earlier comment about unspent Community Compact grant money and could that be used to provide rides. Adam noted that Sudbury was beginning to spend into their allotment, but other towns were much further behind us. Kay thanked Adam and also said she was glad that we were helping other towns move their program forward.

The conversation pivoted to the upcoming October 19 meeting with the Select Board. Dan asked the group to consider what needed to be done between now and then. Alice suggested we decide what the objective was. Dan stated we tell our story of what we have learned thus far. Alice noted a big issue is financial sustainability. Deb Galloway wanted to make sure we show that there is a need and what we have provided is being used.

Linda Faust of Boston Post Road was recognized, and she stated that her issues with Uber still were not resolved. Deb offered to discuss with Linda after the meeting.

Coming back to the October 19 meeting, Dan stated we should identify gaps. Sandy stated we should start with our history, discuss our successes, note our pitfalls and roadblocks, and agreed with gaps and sustainability. Dan added the suggestion of providing a current state analysis. Doug stated that we should try to get the Select Board to commit to our mission of providing rides to these populations and just ensure we are all on the same page. Deb asked if we wanted to make recommendations and Alice noted that towns like Acton, Lexington, Newton, and Bedford have formalized this with dedicated staff. Adam concurred. Alice stated that we were not providing free rides but rather affordable rides. Doug stated that we had to highlight the prevalence of people with disabilities using our services. Sandy added that a staff member could be used to coordinate with the State to obtain funding that may be available.

Dan noted that he had been jotting down notes and said that the story board for this conversation sounded like History of Program, followed by “Problem Definition”, then Current State which would include a discussion of the data we have collected and the programs we have offered. We could then transition to Lessons Learned which could include successes, pitfalls, roadblocks, and gaps. We should note that we have a scattered staff where multiple people were involved – Deb, Adam, and Bethany all were mentioned. Then comes our potential Target State where we could discuss topics such as: is the Town behind this, sustainability, and dedicated staff.

A discussion of how to break up the work ensued. Dan offered to take the current state section and Alice offered to partner with him. Deb offered to find out what Transportation coordinators in other towns do and Sandy said she would assist Deb.

Doug Frey announced at 11:12 that he needed to drop off.

Dan asked the remaining members to note gaps, successes, and challenges that we can add to this framework.

A quick discussion ensued about the Go Sudbury! financials. The September 8th version of Alice’s financial summary was shared. Alice noted that in August for Uber we had stability in terms of wait time, distance traveled, duration and average cost. She noted the average Uber cost was \$20/ride as compared to approximately \$96 for a taxi. Adam discussed the various funding sources and how much of each we had used to date. He estimated that we had 4 or 5 months left of Uber money and that we had another tranche of taxi money due to use from MAPC. Dan suggested that we attempt to review the financials in more detail in our next meeting.

Deb Galloway lost her Zoom connection but regained it approximately 2 minutes later.

The Committee agreed to meet again Friday Sept 24 at 10:30. Adam noted he could not attend on the 24th.

The draft minutes from the August 20, 2021, meeting were shared. After making minor edits Alice motioned to approve and Sandy seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Sandy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Deb seconded. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.