



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, February 18, 2022

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

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

Core Members Absent: Dan Nason

Advisory Group Present:

Advisory Group Absent: Charlie Dunn, Scott Nix, Beth Suedmeyer, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Silvia Nersessian, Mary Warzynski

Guests: Linda Faust, Kay Bell, Lynn Puorro, Sandy Lasky

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting at 10:32am. Dan C made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV. He took a roll call, noted a quorum was present, then announced that he was making Adam Duchesneau co-host of the Zoom session.

Selection of Clerk

Dan C volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates

Dan C. started off by saying that Sandy Lasky had recently resigned from the Council on Aging and thus going forward she would no longer be a voting member of the Transportation Committee. Deb Galloway mentioned that the Council on Aging meets again on March 14 and would likely designate a new member at that time. Dan C noted that he did establish contact with Senator Barrett's office and while no discussion had taken place, yet his office was looking to set up some time to discuss the concept of multiple towns getting together to ask for a State earmark for transportation funding. Dan C then acknowledged that in the last meeting we had discussed the Uber geofence and how it relates to Metco families; two families have been identified and both are Sudbury Public School families. Dan C exchanged information with Superintendent Brad Crozier and Mr. Crozier stated that he would like to coordinate that communication. Dan C asked Deb Galloway if he could put her in contact with Mr. Crozier and Deb stated in the affirmative.

Dan C asked Doug Frey and Deb if they had a chance to follow up on Annex Transit. Doug gave an overview; they are based out of Chelmsford, they are interested in coming to Sudbury, and they do offer wheelchair transportation. As a point of reference Doug noted that a one-way wheelchair ride from his house to Emerson hospital was \$98 and a round trip \$145. Doug wants to price our rides to Mass General Hospital in Boston and suggested we revisit in a future meeting. Alice asked about other vehicle types and Doug stated he thought they were vans but would confirm.

Uber/Taxi Program Update

Dan C shared out the spreadsheet “Go Sudbury! Accounting 220215.xlsx” and pivoted the conversation to the Uber & Taxi program finances. Adam stated that he is beginning to explore reallocating MAPC grant funding from towns that have not used their share to Sudbury. He also opined if it would be beneficial to go to the Council on Aging and Select Board for more of the MeadowWalk mitigation money as he did not believe we would have enough money to get to June when Town Meeting funding could be available assuming the warrant article passed. Dan C asked for confirmation that the program had \$20,000 left and Adam confirmed. Discussion ensued about the MAPC grant money and how much may be left from towns that had not spent their allocation. The Committee concurred that Adam should pursue this option. Dan C noted that he could suggest to the Select Board a small ARPA allocation to help bridge us until Town Meeting. Alice encouraged Dan to do so to keep the taxi program going, and Deb stated she felt strongly about this. Alice noted that there was money from MAGIC that could also be available. Adam suggested that we revisit the MeadowWalk mitigation money prior to the March 14 Council on Aging meeting. Deb asked if the Town Meeting articles required a vote at an election and Dan stated no, it would only need Town meeting approval. Dan stated that he would find out how quickly we could get the money should Town Meeting approve.

Uber/Taxi Program Survey

Dan C thanked Sandy Lasky as she had drafted the survey language and format then shared the online Google survey. The Committee went through the survey and discussion ensued about Uber and medical appointments. The group decided to simply remove the reference to medical rides for Uber and just call them rides. Dan made the change and reshared the survey on screen. Similarly, discussion occurred about entry for Taxi program regarding essential worker and since Taxi is for medical only the group decided to remove it. Again, Dan made edits and reshared the survey on screen. Linda Faust inquired about the accessibility of the survey. Discussion ensued between Alice Sapienza and Kay Bell regarding how best to make documents like this accessible. Dan noted that he would reach out to the Lincoln Sudbury computer science club to see if they have any insight. Doug asked if we wanted to identify wheelchair riders and Sandy added that all users had a chance to comment. Dan stated that he would send the link to Deb who in turn would send out to the user base.

Select Board Business Plan

Dan shared the most recent Business Plan and thanked Alice for her efforts on the third scenario. Alice noted that she incorporated input from the MAPC and stated that if anyone wanted the detail she would be happy to provide. She also talked about the villages of Newton and how they compared to the regional approach of Sudbury and the surrounding towns. Newton spends approximately \$1 million per year so that serves as a decent benchmark. Dan asked for clarification that Sudbury’s share would be a piece of the \$1 million and Alice concurred. Sandy asked about the rural nature of

Sudbury and the more urban nature of Newton and does that make a good comparison. Alice noted the similarities and difference and Dan added that there are not a lot of examples for us to compare to. Further details were discussed, and Alice noted that she has taken this about as far as she could and were this option to be considered it would benefit from paying someone to do further due diligence.

Dan state that he would like to get this done before the end of March and asked everyone to review the draft scenario between now and the next meeting when the Committee would discuss again.

Emerson Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment

Dan shared the document "Emerson and Transportation 2022.docx". Alice noted that she and Adam met with Kelsey Magnuson from Emerson Hospital. Adam stated that he was a part of a small working group regarding how to advance the transportation goals that Emerson outlined in 2021. Adam added that the meeting was to provide feedback and discussion about existing programs, what can Emerson do, what they should be doing, and how can transportation barriers be broken down. He stated that they offer free Uber rides for patients who have no other option when leaving the emergency department. Adam said he and Alice shared what was happening with Sudbury and outreach was discussed with Emerson. Dan asked if we had an action item and Adam said no and that he would keep the Committee updated accordingly.

Topics for future meeting with MWRTA

Dan stated that this had been on the Committee's radar for some time and asked if a meeting with MWRTA had been scheduled. Deb stated nothing is scheduled but they are willing to meet. She also added that current MWRTA Administrator Ed Carr was leaving as of June 30 and that she was on the search committee to find his replacement. Alice noted that the MWRTA's home constituency was Framingham and that we may not have much political leverage. Discussion about Dan's future discussion with Senator Barrett would be key as our partner communities cut across multiple RTAs. Dan stated he would again reach out to Senator Barrett's office.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January 21, 2022, Transportation Committee meeting were reviewed. Alice moved to approve the minutes, Deb seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Minutes of the February 4, 2022, meeting were reviewed. Deb moved to approve the minutes, Doug seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

Member Updates

Deb noted that she had hired a new van driver and he was currently in training. Linda Faust asked how many riders were allowed in the vans and Deb replied three. Alice added that it was a 12-passenger van so there was space to spread out.

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Friday, March 4th at 10:30 AM via Zoom.

Adjournment

Alice moved to adjourn the meeting, Adam seconded, and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.