



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

10:00 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Adam Duchesneau, Kay Bell, Bob Lieberman

Core Members Absent: Deb Galloway

Advisory Group Present: None

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, Bethany Hadvab, Silvia Nersessian, Mary Warzynski

Guests: Ana Cristina Oliveira, Linda Faust

Confirmation of Quorum

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, Dan Carty as Chair convened the meeting. Dan Carty made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and although SudburyTV was not present the meeting was being recorded. He took roll call, noted a quorum was present, and announced that he was making Adam Duchesneau co-host of the Zoom session.

Selection of Clerk

Dan volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative Updates:

Dan commented about the pin he was wearing and asked Kay Bell to tell everyone what it was. Kay proceeded to read a statement about October being disability awareness month, talked about the lapel pins, as well as various events in Sudbury in October.

Dan noted that he had a hard stop at 11AM and proceeded to recap action items from the last meeting.

- Deb and Ana were to talk to town Social Worker Bethany Hadvab about travel vouchers; Ana reported that they had not yet touched base.

- Adam and Deb were to connect on the urgent rides accounting; Adam reported that it was straightforward and would not be an issue.
- Adam was to update committee on Annex legal agreement; Adam stated he would update the committee later in this meeting.
- Dan was to update the Taxi and Uber surveys; he reported that we have received 35 responses for Taxi and 29 for Uber and that he would consolidate feedback for the next meeting. Ana stated she would consolidate feedback from those that had submitted paper surveys.
- Dan was to talk to the Select Board Chair and Interim Town Manager regarding what information was required to proceed with the transportation programs. He reported that he did not have a dedicated conversation but had requested time for the same. Kay asked a clarifying question from a discussion at the previous evenings Select Board meeting regarding MAPC representation and Dan stated that the representative would continue to be from Acton, so no changes were expected.
- Adam and Deb were to discuss Transportation initiatives with the Interim Town Manager; both provide feedback to the Select Board goals regarding transportation.
- Dan was to reach out to the Sudbury Foundation; he stated the meeting was scheduled for the following Monday. Discussion ensued regarding the amount we were asking for. Dan noted that recently the Sudbury Foundation hosted a roundtable event and Kay gave an update on the same. Dan also stated the Foundation was hosting an event at the Sudbury library on November 5 and he would be present to represent the Transportation Committee along with Deb Galloway.

Adam gave an update on the recent Making the Connections meeting. He stated it was a quick meeting; Nelson Nygard was starting to assist communities with outreach. Adam stated that Sudbury was leading in this area but one of the gaps we felt was the general contact and awareness from some of the multi-family housing developments in town. He commended Deb and Ana and the work they have done at the Senior Center regarding communications. Adam stated the Making the Connections initiative will end in December of this year and any unspent money would be returned to the State.

Kay stated she had heard on WGBH radio that the State through the Department of Transportation was looking for input from the public regarding public transportation and offered to research the issue.

Financial Update

Dan asked Adam to provide any pertinent updated information regarding finances. Adam shared the financial spreadsheet and stated we did not yet have all the September numbers in yet. Dan asked Adam to screen share the spreadsheet with him and he then shared with the rest of the Committee.

Annex Transit

Adam mentioned that progress was being made with Annex Transit. Last week they had sent more information about the insurance certificate. Annex signed the agreement and noted that we were waiting for some additional information and then the Town would sign. He talked about how billing would work and did not expect it to be complicated. Dan asked how we would communicate the service to the user base and operationalize the service and discussion ensued on the same. Ana

opined about whether or not Annex would only be for medical rides. Alice and Kay discussed Annex helping to provide reasonable accommodation for those in wheelchairs. Alice noted the cost of Annex was significantly less than that the same ride via a taxi. Dan asked Alice to announce her arrival to the meeting and Alice did the same. Bob stated the importance of piloting this service to work out issues prior to communication of this service.

Next Select Board Meeting

Dan stated that we were penciled in for the October 25 Select Board meeting but that may not make sense if we do not hear back from the MPO regarding tech support. Alice stated we would get tech support, but we may also have to discuss the efficiency and regionalization grant material. She discussed an effort taken up by Bedford, Burlington, and Lexington that the MPO supported. Alice recommended that we let the Select Board know we likely would not receive a full playbook from the MPO. Dan noted that the Select Board would soon be determining high priority goals for 2023 and it would be interesting to see if Transportation remained on the list.

Grants

Dan reiterated the Sudbury Foundation update discussed earlier. Alice opined about whether or not we should be asking for money for medical rides only. Bob suggested our ask be aligned with the goals of the Sudbury Foundation. Kay added that the community has expressed a desire for this service. Dan stated he was meeting with the Director the following Monday and would not resubmit the grant until he got a feeling for what may be supported. Adam concurred with the approach.

Alice then began discussion of the efficiency and regionalization grant related to the community compact and noted it was related to municipal sustainability and not livability. She stated that information was sent to the Interim Town Manager and would be required if we were to submit a grant application. Alice stated that the grant would be useful to pay for planners or for temporary staff and could amount to \$100,000. Dan stated that if it related to staff it would have to be discussed with the Town Manager. Adam stated that we may be getting ahead of ourselves with this grant and feared if we try to build up too fast we may flame out. He thought building for another year may be a better approach. Discussion ensued amongst committee members. Dan noted that if this had to do with staffing and planning he would defer to the expertise of Adam, our Planning Director. Adam felt there were too many projects in flight currently and questioned whether we could be successful with this at the present time. He also noted that some Mass Development Grant funds were returned this year and Community Compact grant money would also be returned because partner communities could not spend it. After further discussion general consensus was reached where it was too soon to apply for this, but it did merit conversation with the MWRTA.

Next Meeting:

The group set the next Transportation Committee meeting for Friday October 21, at 10:00 AM, by Zoom.

Meeting Minutes:

The Minutes were reviewed from the September 23, 2022, meeting. After sharing his screen for these, Dan requested a motion for acceptance. Alice moved to accept the Minutes, Kay seconded, and roll call agreement was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 AM, Kay seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.