

## **Sudbury Transportation Committee Minutes**

**Friday, January 6, 2023 10:30 AM**

**Dan Carty, Chair, called the virtual meeting to order at 10:30 AM**

### **Core Members Present on Zoom screen**

Dan Carty, Chair; Deb Galloway, Adam Duchesneau, Bob Lieberman, Alice Sapienza, Kay Bell

**Core members absent** - none

**Advisory members present** - none

### **Advisory members absent**

Martha Welsh, Dan Nason, Chief Scott Nix, Representative 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 at 10:30 AM. Dan Carty made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being recorded via Zoom and by Sudbury TV. He noted a quorum was present, then announced that he was making Adam Duchesneau co-host of the Zoom session.

### **Selection of Clerk**

Kay volunteered to take the minutes.

Some uncertainty on Sudbury's status as a Mass Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) community was expressed by Dan. Alice said it's because we are a contiguous town to MBTA towns. The passage of programs regarding housing and MBTA access brought renewed attention to MBTA towns.

### **Finances**

1. In the last month taxi rides were less available from JFK so more rides shifted to Tommy's Taxi.
2. Dan showed the rate of spending. If continued, the program runs out of funds entirely at the end of February.
3. The grant allocation from Mass Development has not come in yet. Adam has sent emails and now will again contact them as they have not yet replied to his prior emails.
4. Bob asked what happens if the grant funds don't come in and we spend down funds, do we just shut the program down?

5. Debra has investigated the potential to initiate copays and/or vouchers and in the immediate term she suggests limiting rides per month further and focusing on medical appointments.
6. Alice explained that if we begin working with vouchers, users will pay into an account and staff would not need to handle collecting money.
7. Adam reminded members that the Mass Development funds are used only on taxi rides, not Uber. We need to consider where funds for Uber might come from – perhaps ARPA funds?
8. Ana Cristina suggested emailing to taxi users to remind them of the Council on Aging MWRTA vans being available for appointments in town and nearby towns. Kay concurs.
9. Discussion of various aspects of implementing limits for taxi and or Uber almost immediately ensued.
10. Adam made a motion that beginning on February 1<sup>st</sup> we reduce the number of permissible taxi rides to six one-way rides per month and reduce the number of Uber rides that are permissible per month down to four one-way rides. Debra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
11. Discussion followed about informing participants as soon as possible including suggesting use of the COA vans. Dan called the question and the motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
12. Adam will draft the communication as a web posting as it will go onto the town website with assistance from Debra and Ana Cristina and they can do the direct email. It will explain the reason and restate best alternatives available. Cross Town Connect (CTC), the regional dispatch service, will be informed by Adam. Ana Cristina will telephone participants who do not have email.

### **Policy and Procedure updates**

1. Dan conferred with Interim Town Manager and Town Counsel who advised that the rules we make are fine as long as they are consistent across the two programs.
2. Debra had drafted language for both Taxi and Uber updated with lower ride caps per month. Her idea is to put the additional rules into the application so they will be agreed to when participants sign up. Members worked together on details of wording.
3. A clause specifying that benefits are not transferrable was added and “Failure to Follow Procedures” language explaining a stepwise procedure for handling non-compliance with monthly ride limits was discussed and edited.
4. It will be a three-step process: 1) notification upon a first offence; 2) possible suspension if repeated; 3) removal from the program if there is a third offense.
5. Dan moved to adopt the Go-Sudbury! Taxi policies and procedures as reviewed at the January 6, 2023 meeting. Adam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

6. Dan moved to adopt the Go-Sudbury! Uber policies and procedures as reviewed at the January 6, 2023 meeting, effective February 1. Kay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
7. Violation of Non-transference of benefits section will result in immediate removal from the program.

### **Annex Transit**

1. Annex Transit (Annex) is already contracted with MART (Montachusett) which is helpful. They have many ramp-equipped vans and probably just 2 lift vans. We currently have 6 riders requiring lift vans
2. They use a 48 hour lead time unlike the typical 24-hours. We can ask for our WAV riders to have 24-hrs.
3. Specification of door clearances and weight limits will be sought from Annex as it is critical.
4. Annex will be the “reasonable accommodation” for compliance with ADA replacing the JFK service that has WAV vehicles available only during limited hours. Will work with Commission on Disability on clarifying how to communicate this.
5. Cross Town Connect (CTC) will happily serve as concierge dispatcher for Annex as they do for taxis now.
6. Linda Faust inquired about what other disabilities Annex can accommodate. Alice replied that topic will be explored with the Commission on Disability.
7. Bob asked and was assured that there will be a brief pilot “beta test” of Annex service before opening to all participants and Kay asked and it was confirmed that policies applicable to both providers will also apply to Annex regarding monthly ride caps, etc.

### **MWRTA**

1. Debra has sent in options for a virtual meeting - times/dates - and has not heard back yet.
2. MWRTA will reinstitute fares that had been suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic. Feb 1 likely. Senior Center Vans will do so as well at the same time. \$1 one-way in town and \$2 one-way outside of town.

Debra and Ana Cristina reported that on the weekend the Uber charge is showing for the entire price rather than the copay which has caused real interference for a few participants. Staff will follow up with Uber on what is wrong with the set up.

### **Minutes**

1. Dec 2, 2022: Revised draft minutes from Debra were presented. Alice moved and Bob seconded that the revised minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.
2. Dec 9, 2022: Revised draft minutes from Dan were presented. Bob moved and Debra seconded that the revised minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. Dec 16, 2022: Revised draft minutes from Alice were presented. Debra moved and Dan seconded that the revised minutes be approved. The motion passed with Bob, Alice, Debra, and Adam in favor. Kay abstained.

**Next meeting**

Friday, January 20, 2023 at 11:30 AM

**Adjournment**

Alice moved and Kay seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kay Bell.