



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, September 22, 2023

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Debra Galloway, Bob Lieberman, Bessie Struck

Advisory Group Present: None

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

Guests: Linda Faust, Kay Bell, Ana Cristina Oliveira, Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV),

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 the meeting was being broadcast live via Zoom and recorded by Sudbury TV. He took roll call, noted a quorum was present, and announced that he was making Debra co-host of the Zoom session.

Selection of Clerk: Dan volunteered to take meeting minutes.

Administrative items:

Dan announced that he needed to end the meeting in advance of 11:30am. He noted that Dani Marini-King, Sudbury Sustainability Coordinator, had been appointed to the committee as an advisory member and that Sudbury town Social Worker Bethany Hadvab was leaving her position. He added that he had heard that the Town Planner position had been filled but had no further information to share at this time. He said that recently the Select Board had voted their top priority goals for 2024 and that Transportation did not make the top grouping for the first time in a couple of years. A discussion ensued regarding the upcoming Sudbury Fall Fest and Deb Galloway noted that it had just been cancelled due to inclement weather. Dan noted that the annual Town Forum is scheduled to be held on October 12 and that he had been informed by the Town Manager that it did not need to be posted separately as a Transportation Committee meeting.

Action item follow-up:

Dan summarized the status of open action items:

- Transportation group email – Dan will ensure that Bessie is added, and that the Transportation group email is part of the larger “town committees” group email
- No need to post a committee meeting for the Town Forum

- Dan and Bessie met to discuss a general committee overview
- \$10,000 of MAGIC money – Town staff has sent an invoice and received an acknowledgment but have not yet received the money
- Uber survey results will be discussed today
- Dan is still working with Town Manager on what funding can and cannot be used and when it needs to be used by

Financial update:

Dan shared his screen and showed the financial tracking spreadsheet and noted that it had been sent to committee members in advance of the meeting. He stated that August financials were in; Taxi totaled \$6346.55 while Uber and Annex was \$3,235.79. Taxi enrollment is at 235 with 9 new enrollments in August and 6 so far in September while Uber enrollment is 197 with 11 new enrollments in August and 3 so far in September. Alice asked for clarification on how we spent \$5,000 from the recent Town meeting allocation. Dan explained that the money was for fiscal year 2024 which started in July. Deb pointed out that in August we were still limiting taxi rides to 6 per person per month.

Guest Linda Faust asked a question about the best method for her to take a ride to a particular event in September. Deb Galloway offered to take the matter offline with Linda to answer her question.

Upcoming meeting with MAPC:

Dan next brought up the upcoming October 11 meeting with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and representatives from Salem and Newton. Alice summarized the meeting as an informal conversation with MAPC and these two communities and the experiences they have with VIA and any other pertinent providers. She added that we should really learn from their experiences. Dan noted that MAPC was recognizing Sudbury for the work that we have done. He stated that it would be in our best interest to post this as a full committee meeting as a quorum of members might be present. Alice asked that Dan send an invitation to the committee and to coordinate the Zoom setup with Travis Pollack of MAPC.

VIA follow up:

Alice asked the group if there were any follow up questions or comments from our recent meeting with VIA and added that VIA was likely to reach out to her within a few weeks to see if we had any question. Dan stated that he would like to hear from Newton and Salem on October 11th as they were customers of VIA. He added that everyone should have received copies of the VIA slides and that he would get them added to the website. Bob stated that he thought we should go through a due diligence process of gathering data and talking to other towns that have used the service. Alice agreed but also wanted to make sure there were not immediate questions that the committee had. Dan agreed to add this as a future agenda item.

MWRTA Hospital Shuttle:

Alice started the conversation by saying that Jim Nee of the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) was enthusiastic about working with us, Wayland, and Weston in creating a dedicated Boston hospital shuttle that would be similar to the Framingham, Natick, and Wellesley shuttle that they currently operate. She commended Deb as she was able to get the Council on Aging staff from these two towns interested in moving forward. Dan clarified that Alice and Deb were to meet with MWRTA, Weston, and Wayland on October 17. Alice asked the committee to think about what

possible backup options we may have for the shuttle should a rider miss one. Dan asked for clarification that this would be grant funded. Alice answered that it would be part of a three-year Community Connections grant. Dan stated that he did not want to lose sight of that as the grant application would be due before the end of the year, Alice then noted that the MWRTA would serve as the lead on the grant application and the towns would provide narratives. Bessie stated that a backup plan was important for shuttles like this. Deb added that while this would be new for Sudbury the MWRTA already has experience running a similar service for Natick, Wellesley, and Framingham. Bob asked if it would be multi-passenger and on a fixed route. Alice answered that the software that drives the service is flexible and while riders needed to reserve 24 hours in advance it would not necessarily follow a fixed route. Bessie asked what the targeted populations would be; Alice answered that, because it is an RTA initiative, it is open to the public. If transportation backup were necessary, target populations for that aspect of the initiative (under the towns), it would be the same as currently for GoSudbury, people with a disability, financially vulnerable, older residents, and military.

GoSudbury! Uber Survey:

Alice asked that Dan share his screen with the summary of Uber responses to the rider survey. She thanked Ana Cristina for her work and noted that we had close to 50 people who responded. Alice noted there were two themes that stuck out to her, affordability, and general program awareness. She highlighted a few particular responses; discussion ensued about tipping leading to low rider ratings on Uber. Discussion continued regarding program awareness and what could be done to increase it. Bessie offered to get the word out at Longfellow Glen. Alice agreed and then gave an example of people in her neighborhood not being aware. She added that the Senior Center does a wonderful job in advertising the program but wondered if doing something like including a small flyer in a mailer already going out to the public may be an option. Dan offered to discuss with the Town Manager to see if there was an opportunity to take advantage of a mailer that goes out. Other ideas were discussed, including working with the schools, to get an information table at the upcoming Town meeting, and partnering with local faith communities. Dan offered to follow up on these ideas as well as to have a more in-depth conversation at a future meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 6, at 10:30 AM. There will also be a meeting posted for those interested in the MAPC discussion at 1:30PM on Wednesday, October 11.

Minutes:

The minutes of September 7th were reviewed with minor edits. Alice moved to approve with recommendations noted; Bob seconded the move; approval on roll call was 4-0 (Alice was not audible for the roll call vote).

Kay Bell had a public comment about a recent radio show noting that Boston Post Road being the longest continuous road in the United States and found it interesting as it was a key part of our transportation focus. She also commended State Representative Gentile for securing state funding and hoped that the program would get to keep all the funding it had to continue to grow the program.

Follow-up items:

- Zoom for October 11 meeting with MAPC, Salem, and Newton – Dan
- Flyers at town meeting – Dan

- Reach out to Linda Faust regarding her personal ride question – Ana Cristina
- Communication through Sudbury Public School – Dan
- Longfellow communications – Bessie
- Faith communities' communications - Deb

Adjournment:

Deb moved to adjourn the meeting, Bob seconded, approval on roll call was 4-0 (Alice was not audible for the roll call vote).