

Sudbury Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 4th, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

- Dan Carty (Chair)
- Cheryl Wallace
- Adam Burney
- Alice Sapienza
- Robert Lieberman

Guests

- Jill Dube: Outreach worker and assistant director at the Sudbury Senior Center.
- Vivian Zeng: Health Director in Sudbury
- Nina Lurie: Town Social Worker
- Kirsten Wilcox: Town Social Worker
- Kay Bell, resident

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by Dan Carty.
- Dan Carty advised that the meeting was being recorded and shared live.

2. Roll Call

- Roll call was conducted.

3. Administrative Items

- The committee will continue to meet via Zoom, as the governor has signed an extension for remote meeting capabilities.
- Cheryl Wallace agreed to take notes for this meeting.
- Adam Burney was made co-host to assist with any technical difficulties.
- Dan Carty welcomed Nina Lurie and Kirsten Wilcox, town social workers.

4. Agenda Items

- Dan Carty provided an overview of the Transportation Committee, noting that it includes both voting and advisory members from staff.
- Dan Carty acknowledged the previous work with the social worker and expressed excitement that the new social workers were present.
- Dan Carty informed the committee that he had requested a Select Board agenda item to extend committee terms and address membership.
- Bob Lieberman's term on the Council on Aging is ending, so he will be leaving the Transportation Committee.
- Deb Galloway has been replaced by a new director, who will start on April 30th.
- The committee discussed small amount of money that was set aside for emergency transportation situations that do not meet the standard criteria. Alice Sapienza and Jill Dube will follow up on the availability of these funds.

• 5. Discussion Items

- Transportation Programs Update:
 - The committee discussed the Uber, Taxi, Catch Connect, and hospital shuttle services. Funding is limited, and these services are being evaluated.
 - Catch Connect and the hospital shuttle are ending as one-year pilots.
 - Taxis are expensive due to high cost of rides as well as dispatch costs.
 - Uber is cost-efficient but doesn't serve everyone (e.g., those needing wheelchair accessibility).
- Social Worker Input:
 - Dan Carty emphasized the importance of input from the social workers, Nina Lurie and Kirsten Wilcox, on transportation needs, as they have direct knowledge of client challenges.

- **Transportation Needs:**
 - Kirsten highlighted the difficulty some residents face in getting to medical appointments due to the limited number of wheelchair-accessible taxis and the expense of out-of-town transportation.
 - Nina Lurie added that transportation can be a significant burden for individuals with mental health issues, especially when traveling outside of Sudbury for appointments.
 - Kirsten mentioned the issue of after-school transportation for families who do not get into Sudbury Extended Day, as other after-school programs lack transportation.
 - Kirsten also raised the issue of the lack of a bus stop for middle schoolers at the library, which limits their access to after-school programs and study opportunities.
- **Grant Opportunities**
 - Alice Sapienza discussed a transportation management association (TMA) grant with a short deadline (April 10th). Adam Burney indicated the TMA is not currently functional.
 - Alice Sapienza suggested that the possibility of Sudbury leading a Transportation Management Association should remain on the table.
- **Uber Data Follow-up:**
 - Dan Carty shared data about Uber rides over the past six months, including mean and median costs.
 - Alice Sapienza corrected an error in the data, stating the actual mean cost is \$35, while the average is \$32.

6. Action Items

- Alice Sapienza and Jill Dube will follow up on the availability of emergency transportation funds.

7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 11:38 AM by Dan Carty. Seconded by Cheryl Wallace. agreement was unanimous.

8. Next Meeting

- Next meeting is Friday, 18 April, at 10:30 AM by Zoom.