



Town of Sudbury

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

Sudbury Transportation Committee

Minutes

Friday, May 2, 2025

10:30 AM

Via Town Zoom Conference Call

Core Members Present: Daniel Carty, Alice Sapienza, Bob Lieberman, Adam Burney, and Cheryl Wallace

Core Members Absent:

Advisory Group Present:

Advisory Group Absent: Martha Welsh, Chief Scott Nix, Carmine Gentile, and Maura Carty.

Guests: Jill Dube (Sudbury Senior Center Asst. Director/Outreach Coordinator), Nickole Boardman (Sudbury Senior Center Director), Linda Faust (Sudbury resident), Kay Bell (Sudbury resident)

Confirmation of Quorum: The statutory requirements as to notice having been met, Dan Carty as chair convened the meeting at 10:30 AM. Dan made an announcement that this was a public meeting, and the meeting was being broadcast live via zoom and recorded by Sudbury TV. Roll call was taken, a quorum was present. Dan assigned Adam Burney as co-host.

Selection of Clerk: Dan was assigned the duties of Clerk for the meeting.

Dan started by saying he would like to end by 11:30AM if at all possible

Action Items: Dan next reviewed action items from the previous meeting

- Dan sent Uber report to committee members
- Dan sent Linda Faust information on the Farmers Market as requested
- Dan screen shared more information about \$50,000 budget funding from the State. Upon discussion the committee empowered Dan to send an email to State Senator Eldridge on behalf of committee asking for support of supplemental budget in the Senate. Alice noted she had sent something as a private citizen and Adam said he would send something as a staff member.
- Adam stated he spoke with the Town Manager re: withdrawal from the taxi dispatch contract and that he (Town Manager) would contact Acton. He added that there would be a financial penalty due to timing of withdrawal

Dan then screenshared a financial summary document created by Alice. She noted that the document was current through March but added that we just got the Uber invoice for April for approximately \$3,600.

Next Dan introduced Nickole Boardman, the new Senior Center Director. Nicole stated she had just started with in her new position with Sudbury on Wednesday and proceeded to outline her past experience. Most recently with the Groton Senior Center she managed outreach and transportation dispatch. She spoke of previous roles in the Sterling and Princeton senior centers as well. With regards to Groton, she stated that they had 10 per diem drivers and did about 450 rides per month. Committee members proceeded to discuss the history of transportation and this committee in Sudbury as well as to introduce themselves.

Dan summarized his recent meeting with the Town Manager as a desire to sunset the Uber and Taxi programs as they currently exist, continue with Catch Connect, and transfer some funding to the Social Workers to keep some level of Uber and Taxi rides. He added that he hoped to get on the May 20th Select Board agenda to discuss this plan with them and get their feedback, as well as to extend the committee and membership and assign a new MWRTA representative with the departure of Debra Galloway. Finally, Dan stated he asked the Town Manager to reach out to his staff to have these discussions directly with them. Related discussion ensued; Alice said we should be careful in sunsetting the hospital shuttle, because if we sunset Taxi there could be riders that would transition to the shuttle. Adam briefly discussed the job requisition for a planning department staffer that could work on Transportation issues, but progress was impacted by the impending Town Meeting. He added that Via had reached out to him regarding some grant opportunities and opined on what a future relationship with Via might look like. Alice noted that Salem and Newton are two other towns that are partnered with Via, as well as Worcester.

The status of the Uber contract was next discussed. Dan stated our agreement ends on July 1; Adam replied that Town Counsel had reviewed the current agreement, and it was good to renew.

The Farmers Market on May 31 was discussed next. Dan said he had a call with the Town Social Workers later in the day, but they had funding they could allocate to the Uber program to get people rides. After discussion Adam suggested they just enroll riders in our current program, we allow them to take rides, then unenroll them after the event. Funds could be transferred after the fact. Jill and Nickole asked if they could attend the call with the Social Workers with Dan; Dan stated he would forward the meeting information to them.

Dan next discussed the upcoming May 6th meeting with the MWRTA regarding communicating to CatchConnect riders. He added that Jill would be part of this call, and that Nickole was welcome to attend as well. He stated he would get information about the feasibility of extending CatchConnect for another year. Related discussion ensued. Alice discussed the lack of overlap between the Council on Aging van ridership and CatchConnect. Dan screenshared 3 months of data that showed 628 rides for the Sr Center vans and 515 for CatchConnect. Adam spoke of possibly combining the two services to maximize coverage and utilization. Dan noted we were not looking to cut into the Sr Center vans at all, then spoke of the remaining funding and possible options of what might be done with it.

Vouchers were discussed next. Alice stated that Andy Willett of Uber wants to make sure that we understand the voucher program. She added that a \$30 voucher was recommended but that a discussion with Uber was still needed and suggested Adam set it up with Dan and Alice in attendance. Dan stated he would restart the email thread with Uber to try to find a meeting time that worked.

Dan next brought up the May 20 th Select Board meeting and what he would like to discuss with them. He stated he did not envision a 20-page slide deck, but to focus on what has happened since the last meeting and what the committee's recommendations were going forward. Dan volunteered to put a draft together in advance of the next committee meeting. Topics the committee felt could be included were increased collaboration with the MWRTA, financial and environmental sustainability, links to Master Plan, testimonials from riders and the MWRTA, and performance of CatchConnect in Sudbury relative to other towns. Jill offered to pull rider testimonials together and Alice would pull pertinent items from our surveys. Constructive feedback, like addressing short hours, was also recommended for inclusion. Bob added that it was important for the Select Board to hear that the need was real, even if it was not on the radar screen of most residents in town, and to lobby for staff help with transportation issues. Cheryl stated that transportation for most people equated to traffic issues, and if we could get people into public transportation it would actually help alleviate heavy traffic.

New action items were summarized:

- Alice will pull testimonials from surveys
- Jill will find applicable rider testimonials
- Dan will draft the presentation for review
- Adam will discuss how to transfer funding to cover the Social Worker's riders to the Farmers Market
- Dan will forward meeting info with Social Workers to Jill and Nickole
- Dan will report back after the meeting with MWRTA to discuss CatchConnect
- Dan will set up call with Uber, Alice, and Adam

Resident Kay Bell was recognized for comments; she thanked outgoing members and welcomed new staff. Resident Linda Faust was next recognized, and she too welcomed the new Senior Center Director.

Minutes: Dan stated no minutes would be reviewed

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for 10:00 AM on May 16, 2025, via Zoom.

Adjournment: Dan asked for a motion to adjourn; Alice moved to adjourn. Adam seconded the motion, and the roll call was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.