

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission

Minutes of the January 28 meeting

Herb Asplund led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The December minutes were approved unanimously.

The Agenda as approved with one addition under Old Business: A discussion of how to implement plan of action.

Present: Karen Wagner, Jim MacPherson, Bob Dickinson, Thomas Scheinblum, Kathy Hale, Herb Asplund, Terry Hart

Old business

Geissler's Plaza – Karen Wagner report that the developer of the Geissler's plan has agreed to include access and accommodation for bus service.

175th anniversary celebration – Karen said she has been in contact with the celebration committee chairman and has been invited to the February meeting to talk about including a trolley service in the celebration events.

Vision Statement and Plan of Action, second phase – The Commission discussed the Trolley Project's second phase. Members proposed secondary routes, including high volume and high need destinations. Among those were: Oakland road to the Manchester border and also looping back all the way to Clark Street and/or Tamarack Drive, Pleasant Valley Road, connections to mall area destinations. Karen Wagner will contact the senior center to find out if drivers are interested in additional routes. Members agreed there should be no or minimal fares. Members talked at length about leasing versus owning bus equipment. Leasing was the preferred option. Jim MacPherson will ask Amy Parameter about the group responsible for administering the We-Ha bus. Terry Hart will contact Post Road Stages about the possibility of using one of their buses. Herb Asplund will talk to Lindsey Limousine, which may have the We-Ha contract.

Grants – Karen Wagner said that the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is still in the process of choosing members for the \$100,000 grant distribution committee. Other grant deadlines have not been set for 2020.

Videotaping meetings – Karen reported that the town is in the process of setting up videotaping for all Commission, including ours.

New Business

Membership updates – Karen reported that Sue Larsen and Jim MacPherson have agreed to serve another term and thanked them for their continued commitment.

East Windsor Route 5 corridor study – Karen noted that East Windsor has begun a study of the Route 5 corridor. She will keep the Commission updated.

Bikes and buses – Karen alerted the Commission to the work of the South Windsor Walk & Wheelways Committee as it seeks to upgrade the community's status as bike-friendly regarding public transportation. In future route, bus stop, and service planning, we should make sure bike access is a priority.

Transit Equity Day – Karen noted that Feb. 4 is Transit Equity Day, which highlights the need for better access to public transportation. A meeting will be held in Hartford from 7 am to 9:30 am at 777 Main Street to support this issue.

Thomas' report – Thomas Scheinblum explained to the Commission the step-by-step plan that is needed to apply for the BUILD grant, including project components, criteria, and readiness. He discussed the importance of each piece in a general overview. He said that the next steps should be re-surveying residents, holding public meetings, choosing grant components that are or can be fulfilled (not everything is required)

He also passed out town map overlaps that show the transit propensity index for various populations. This information prepares members for moving forward in the application process. Karen will ask Michele Lipe for a list of new businesses in town and the number of employees.

Karen asked everyone to study the material in depth and be prepared to suggest answers and items needed to meet the application's requirements. This will be the major focus of the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting is February 25.