

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission Special Meeting

June 29, 2021, 6:30 pm

Minutes

Present: Karen Wagner, Michael LaBlanc, Carly DeLuca, James MacPherson, Terry Hart, Sue Larsen, Kathy Hale. Guest: Mayor Andy Paterna.

Karen Wagner led the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and agenda were approved unanimously.

Old Business

1. RAISE grant: Andy Paterna spoke to the Commission about pursuing funds that would help our trolley get online and connect to CT Transit, perhaps with a pilot program. The Commission agreed to support his pursuit of those funds.

Karen Wagner reported on the RAISE grant webinars and explained how South Windsor qualified as a rural area. She explained the difficulty of applying for a capital grant and recommended applying for a planning grant. Carly DeLuca explained how the census data portrayed South Windsor as rural.

Kathy Hale made the following MOTION: To approve the Commission applying for a RAISE planning grant because we can not justify the minimum amount for a capital grant. Sue Larsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Karen listed possible expenses for a planning grant: consultants, system design work, professional survey, technological considerations. Kathy will investigate the cost of a survey by Quinnipiac. Sue will research the cost of a system design. Michael LeBlanc will reach out to CT Transit about possible connections of their commuter lot in Vernon. Carly and Karen will gather cost figures for technology on the buses.

Karen went over deadlines: Application must be filed by July 12. Grants will be awarded in November. Funds will be available by January, 2022. The project must be completed by Sept. 1, 2029. She also mentioned upcoming special meetings on July 6 and July 8 to complete the application. Everyone said they would attend if they could. The Commission discussed names for the project. Karen asked everyone to send in other suggestions and be ready to vote on July 6.

The Commission went over the draft of the project narrative and made revisions. Karen will rewrite the draft and present for a final vote on July 6.

2. Intern update: Carly presented the Census data she had gathered and explained how South Windsor fit into various categories. She also discussed areas of persistent poverty in Connecticut. South Windsor does not fit the definition.
3. Other old business: The Commission decided that the questionnaire for residents and businesses could be tabled until the survey vendor was chosen.

New Business

1. Bus shelters: Karen explained a town council plan to form an arts commission and the possibility of having local artists paint scenes on bus shelters. This is just an idea with no action expected any time soon.
2. Other new business: Kathy Hale discussed the list of local businesses she compiled. Commission members brainstormed about ways to improve contact information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting is July 6 at 6:30 pm.