

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission
Minutes
Nov. 27, 2018

Present: Karen Wagner, Bob Dickinson, Carolyn Mirek, Herb Asplund

Herb led the Pledge of Allegiance

The October minutes were approved with one correction. Herb also attended the bus education program at the senior center. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Old business

Bus education program – Herb said he thought the last program revealed how little South Windsor residents know about riding a public bus. Residents have no history of taking the bus. There was a brief discussion about the viability of self-driving buses. Karen mentioned that when she read to the first graders at Philip R. Smith Elementary School this month, the book was about a grandmother and grandson riding a bus. So, she brought along visuals of a CTransit bus and the bus shelter on Buckland Rd. to enhance the story. The children learned a lot about local buses and asked a lot of question.

Other education actions. Karen said town hall agreed to mail out the Commission's letter about the video of our bus program at town hall. They used Kathy Hale's list of businesses. Carolyn suggested following up with personal emails. Karen also mentioned that the CTGo card is now active and there is a video about it on YouTube (less than two minutes). She will ask Cathy Gross if she can link it to the Chamber website. Bruce was not at the meeting so discussion of its use in local businesses was tabled. Karen did some preliminary inquiries about an ongoing reminder in the senior newsletter about the education video and was discouraged. She will explore other ways of using the video.

Intern - Kathy was absent so the discussion of the intern was tabled.

Teen center - The teen center discussion was tabled because Sue Larsen was not in attendance.

Sustainable Communities – Karen noted that the 20 points that the Commission earned for the program is final and was so high because we did so lot of outreach and education. Members discussed ideas for 2019, such as programs to improve ridership, dedicated bus trips to Hartford events (separate from senior center) and programs for teens and information. Carolyn suggested leaving info on bus routes, and anything else useful at the office in Evergreen Walk. She will contact the mall about that possibility. Bob suggested pursuing the idea of more bike racks per bus to increase bike/bus rider participation.

Grants – Josh Johnson could not attend due to a work commitment but he has new information about grants that he will send around to the Commission. Karen asked everyone to review the documents for discussion at the January meeting.

Trolley – Karen has been unable to meet with Matt Galligan to discuss this.

New Business

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next meeting – Jan. 22.