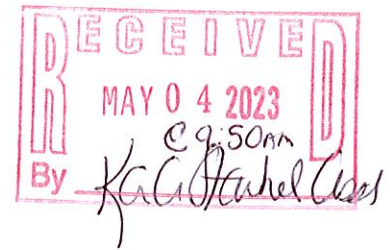


Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission
Minutes

April 25, 2023

Present: Jim MacPherson, Herb Asplund, Renee Powell, Bo Maksymiuk, Karen Wagner, Sue Larsen, Terry Hart, Bo Makaymiuk, Erica Evans, Damian Humphrey.



Herb Asplund led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved unanimously. The February 2124 minutes were approved unanimously.

There was no meeting in March due to lack of a quorum.

Chair Karen Wagner announced that the meetings will now be videotaped starting with this meeting.

Old Business

Grants: Karen Wagner spoke with Chris Murphy's aide, Ariel Vega, about federal appropriations programs that are not grants but door to door funding that doesn't require a match. They are meant for small projects such as ours. They are called Congressional Directed Spending (a Senate program) and Community Funded Projects (a U.S. House program). Ariel will look at our proposal and consider whether it fits those programs.

Microtransit: Karen attended an online seminar about the Microtransit pilot program. The program appears to be targeted for existing transit systems and would only fix our needs as enhancement funding once some kind of transit service is established.

Bus routes: Herb Asplund has been talking to Councilor Stephen King, who has offered to research the FedEx issue.

Outreach to other towns: Renee Powell spoke to officials in several nearby towns. Most have some kind of limited transportation service, such as Dial-A-Ride, Friends in Service, or Greater Hartford Transit. Vernon has a traffic authority and seems to have broader options. She will talk to whoever handles Traffic Authority issues in Vernon Town Hall.

Liaison report: Erica Evans summarized her recent conversations with Matt Hart, the grants expert from CRCOG. He has agreed to come to the May meeting to discuss grants.

Other old business: Karen and Terry Hart are working on meeting with the town manager and the mayor to clarify their support or lack thereof for the trolley project.

New Business

Planning and Zoning Commission plan of development: Karen summarized the ways that Commission's proposed POD includes supportive references to improving public transportation in town, which will be a help in seeking outside funding for our projects.

Criteria: Commissioner Wagner reviewed the standard criteria for grant applications and asked everyone to become familiar with the items and think of ones that they would like to work on. They will be brainstormed at the May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd at 6:30 pm.