

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission

Minutes

June 27, 2023

Present: Jim MacPherson, Herb Asplund, Renee Powell, Bohdan Maksymiuk, Karen Wagner, Terry Hart, David Basile, Guests: Jeff Dolittle, Assistant Director of Public Works and Town Engineer

Herb Asplund led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved unanimously. The May minutes were approved with corrections – misspelling of Bo Maysymiuk's name and inclusion of David Basile in those who attended meeting.

Old Business

Jeff Dolittle, who is the town's representative on CRCOG and serves on transit committee, explained what he does at CRCOG. As a board member, he looks into federal and state grants for which South Windsor might be eligible. He observed that applying for grants regarding anything but infrastructure is challenging. He doesn't think the town would cover operational expenses unless there is some kind of partnership with businesses, a private entity, or other municipalities. Using a private service with the Commission providing oversight is one possibility. He will alert us to grants that fit our project.

Grants – Commissioners discussed these grant criteria:

Economic competitiveness – We've done a lot of this in other grant applications. Bo Maksymiuk worried buses might take competition from other ride services and push them out of business. Others suggested updating non-drivers and carless households statistics.

Safety - We should try to find more local statistics. We should debunk the perception that buses aren't safe. And promote lower accident rates.

Quality of life – Herb Asplund suggested reaching out to Andrea to better understand what they do regarding transportation. Karen will look into this.

Vice chairman -Karen Wagner reiterated that someone must volunteer to chair September and October meetings, or they will need to be cancelled.

Meeting with Town Manager. Terry Hart and Karen Wagner have a meeting scheduled with the town manager. She asked for suggestions as to the topics members would like to cover.

New Business

Plan of Conservation and Development – Karen Wagner attended the first public input session on the plan and discussed the conversations there. Transit, biking, and walking were ranked as the second most important goal for the town. Several people spoke in favor of more public transit.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

The next meeting is July 24 at 6:30 pm.

