

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission
Minutes
Jan. 22, 2019

Present: Karen Wagner, Sue Larsen, Kathy Hale, Bob Dickinson, Herb Asplund

Sue led the Pledge of Allegiance

The November minutes were approved with two abstentions.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

Old business

1. *Bus education program* –
 - a. Chamber - Karen got links to the GoCTcard from Kathy Gross. Herb will give the information to the Chamber to use in whatever way they think will be useful for their members.
 - b. Senior newsletter – Andrea Cofrancesco agreed to put something in the newsletter about the Commission's G-media video as long as space allowed. Karen passed around a draft paragraph, which Commission members approved unanimously.
 - c. Teen Center – Sue reported that the Teen Center newsletter was for parents. She distributed a draft article for the newsletter about public transit options in town. Commission members made suggestions. Sue will include all the links we have used to promote public transportation and submit the article for publication.
 - d. Joint programs – Karen suggested investigating possible joint education programs with bordering communities. Commission members thought that was a good idea. Herb said we should find out if other towns have similar transit authorities and if they might be doing promotional activities that we aren't. Kathy will look into what's happening in Vernon, Manchester and East Hartford.
2. *Sustainable communities* – Carolyn was absent so the issue of promotional opportunities at Evergreen Walk was tabled.
3. *Trolley* – Karen said Matt Galligan has requested \$13,000 in the 2019-2020 budget to buy a trolley. The Commission voted unanimously to support that request with testimony during the budget hearing. Karen will write the testimony and let everyone know when the hearing is. All Commission members will be asked to attend. The Commission also voted unanimously to formally support any potential grant application from the town regarding funding for the trolley.
4. *Grants* - The grants report was tabled because Josh did not attend. Kathy suggested contacting the Transportation and Climate Initiative for help with grants now that Connecticut have joined with several other states to develop a plan to curb pollution from transportation.
5. *Other old business.* – Kathy discussed the possibility of using ENCORE to get an unpaid intern to help us write a grant. We need to define the project that person would assist

with. Karen will research age-related data for the town and find out if the town survey has any information on useful transportation statistics. Bob will send everyone the link for the town survey results.

New Business

1. *Membership* – Bruce Snow has resigned.
2. *Shared Services* – There was a discussion of whether the Commission should take a stand on the issue of shared services, which is an issue for the current General Assembly. Members felt that, until we have more information about what other towns are doing regarding the promotion of public transportation, we should defer this issue.
3. *Other new business* – There was a discussion of the Commission's role in improving poor signage on the roads. Herb cautioned that we must be sure it isn't someone else's job. Kathy and Herb will take pictures of intersections that concern them. At a future meeting, we will consider our ability to help with those specific problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting is Feb. 26.