

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission

Minutes

March 26, 2019

6:30 pm

Sprenkel Room, Town Hall

Present: Kathy Hale, Karen Wagner, Bob Dickinson, Herb Asplund, Josh Johnson, Carolyn Mirek

Guest: Jim MacPherson

Herb lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes and agenda were approved unanimously.

**Old business**

1. Bus education actions: Teen center – Karen reported that Sue has volunteered to organize a teen center bus program that includes a ride. Andrea deConfrancesco supports the idea. Kathy suggested we try to do it by the end of the school year. The Commission voted unanimously to hold a bus program at the teen center.  
Joint programs – Kathy is investigating Vernon but is having difficulty with contacts there. Herb said he would reach out to Manchester regarding joint education programs.
2. Sustainable Communities – Karen distributed the action items on public transit under this year's Sustainable Communities program. She asked everyone to review the two sections and think of ideas that would earn the town points.  
Carolyn talked to someone at Evergreen Walk who said people rarely come into the office there so it is doubtful anyone who pick up bus information.
3. Grants – Josh reported that he has reached out to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for help. They have a program that provides \$100,000 grants for each town this year. \$50,000 is available immediately. He has been talking to Meghan Butler there to figure out if we could qualify for some of it. He also is working through contacts at the US Department of Transportation's regional office to see what is available there. Kathy suggested that he reach out to John Larson's office for help. She will find the contact info and send it to Josh. Kathy has been talking to Dave Garvey at UConn's School of Public Policy. He said he might have an intern who would be available quickly and would be willing to work for nothing. She passed around a draft of a notice to seek an intern to work with the Commission on obtaining grants. **Motion:** To authorize the submission of a notice of the University of Connecticut School of Public Policy for an unpaid internship for the purpose of assisting in grants applications. Further, a subcommittee of Josh Johnson, Kathy Hale, and Karen Wagner is authorized to review and approve a final version of the notice. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Trolley – The proposed trolley line would now extend to Geissler's Plaza. Karen reported that a public hearing on general government budget is scheduled for April 15. The trolley

is not on the budget but Matt Galligan will speak at Wednesday's economic forum and tout Geissler's improvement plans as another reason to support trolley funding. If the money gets in the budget, Matt will notify us. He has asked us to write individual letters of support for the trolley funding. Karen passed out two information sheets with talking points for supporting public transit. Emails going to the entire town council should be addressed to: [towncouncil@southwindsor.org](mailto:towncouncil@southwindsor.org) Emails to Matt should be addressed to [matthew.galligan@southwindsor.org](mailto:matthew.galligan@southwindsor.org). Karen will let everyone know what happens with the budget.

5. Signage – Herb observed with intersection of Ellington Road and Clark Street several more times. He realized that there was no room to expand the road at the intersection due to the presence of a fire hydrant and a telephone pole.

#### **New Business**

1. Programs for 2019 – The Commission discussed having a table at Armed Forces Day. Herb will find out if that is possible. The Commission also discussed doing something at Heritage Day. \
2. New members – Karen introduced Jim MacPherson again, the Democrat who is replacing Janice Favreau. He should be official at the next meeting. Herb said at the next town council meeting, Terry Hart will be nominated to replace Bruce Snow.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next meeting – April 23