

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission
Minutes
Sprenkel Room, Town Hall
April 23, 2019

Present: Karen Wagner, Kathy Hale, Bob Dickinson, Herb Asplund, Jim MacPherson, Josh Johnson, Sue Larsen. Guests: Terry Hart, Thomas Scheinblum

Herb led the Pledge of Allegiance

The March minutes were approved unanimously with one correction. The intersection of Ellington Road and Clark Street has a fire hydrant and a traffic light pole, not a telephone pole. The agenda was approved unanimously with one adjustment. The discussion of the intern was moved to the beginning of the Old Business agenda.

Old business

1. Grants – Kathy explained that the subcommittee of Karen, Kathy and Josh had interviewed and vetted Thomas Scheinblum. He is willing to work for free for 360 hours of credit toward his masters degree. Kathy said the town is considering a \$1,000 stipend but that is not guaranteed. Josh said Thomas was a good fit for our needs, with an impressive background and experience in research that is similar to grants research. The Commission would establish criteria for evaluating Thomas at the end of his internship. Thomas would attend Commission meetings and meet once a week with a small supervising group. Herb noted that it doesn't have to be just Karen, that Josh and Kathy should come when they can. Staff members are available to help if needed. There may be meetings with the town manager, assistant town manager and/or town planner. Karen summarized the steps in the intern's work: Research for grants that find a circulator bus and/or a trolley in the business district, begin the application process, sorting out reasonable possibilities and begin writing grant applications for those. If he is still around, he can help with the implementation of the grant.
MOTION: To hire Thomas Scheinblum as the Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission's intern for 360 hours of work toward credits for his Bachelor's Degree in Economics.
The motion passed unanimously.
2. *Bus education program* –
 - a. Teen Center – Sue reported that she still has to get together with Andrea Cofrancesco to coordinate a date.
 - b. Joint programs – No progress has been made on this idea. Herb said the first step is looking at what other towns are doing.

- c. Armed Forces Day – Karen reported that we have been granted a table/booth at Armed Forces Day, May 18. This would be a late afternoon commitment. Karen will staff the whole time. Jim, Bob, Josh and Thomas volunteered to help.
3. *Sustainable communities* – Karen asked Jim to look at this year's requirements for earning points and figure out what fits with our projects.
4. *Grants*, part 2 – Josh reported that he has spoken to the USDOT liaison. He sent a list of grants that might work. He will send the list to Karen, who will forward it to all members. Josh is still trying to connect with the HFPG representative but reminded the Commission that we might be able to claim part of the \$100,000 grant every town is getting from HF PG.
5. *Trolley* – The public hearing on the general government budget was April 22. There is no way to predict if the money for the trolley will be in the final budget. Karen will keep everyone updated. Terry inquired whether the Commission or the town has considered subcontracting the bus service to a private company that could take all the responsibility for maintenance, risk, etc. Karen will ask Matt Galligan about that and ask Andrea what the senior center does. Josh noted that Enfield's Magic Carpet service was run by a private company.

New Business

1. *Membership* – Karen said that Jim, a Democrat, was now an official member and introduced Terry, who is the Republican nominee to fill their vacancy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

The next meeting is May 28.