

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission
Minutes of May 28, 2019 meeting

Present: Bob Dickinson, Karen Wagner(chair), Jim MacPherson, Terry Hart, Kathy Hale, Sue Larsen, Carolyn Mirek, Herb Asplund. Thomas Scheinblum(intern)

Sue Larsen lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The April minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

The agenda was approved with items 3, 4 and 5 under Old Business moved to the start of the meeting so Kathy Hale could be included in the reports before she left for another meeting.

Old business

1. Grants - Thomas Scheinblum summarized his initial research: studying what we've already done and familiarizing himself with town routes and other information we have gathered. Kathy Hale found information on the federal BUILD grants and also may have data on our possible qualification for money from the VW settlement if we bought an electric bus. She will look into that further.
2. Trolley – Kathy Hale summarized Matt Galligan's initial vision for the trolley route from Evergreen Walk to Geissler's Plaza and our Commission's interest in expanding it to include side streets such as Pleasant Valley Road. Kathy spoke to the Manchester town planner and he said that the town did a study on a possible Buckland area trolley after CTFastrak was proposed. She will get the data on that from him. Bob Dickinson suggested that an inter-city route might attract a better grant. Kathy Hale asked about the results of the town wide survey that included transportation questions. Karen Wagner said she would find out. There was a brief discussion of electric charging stations because there is interest in getting an electric trolley.
3. Intern report – This was covered under Grants.
4. Bus education actions - *Teen center*: Sue Larsen talked to Andrea Cofrancesco and was guided to Liane Smith, who is program coordinator. She wants to do a program in the fall that includes offering a ride of a CT Transit bus. Sue and Liane will meet in August to talk about initial plans. *Armed Forces Day*: Turnout was excellent. Traffic at our booth was good. But people were disappointed that we don't have better bus service. Visitors took a lot of information, especially CTFastrak schedules and train schedules. Many commented that they weren't ready to use the bus because they still drove. Jim MacPherson spoke about the AAA data that shows that taking the bus is cheaper than driving. Commission members thought it would be a good idea to have that data for education purposes. He will compile it. *Joint programs*: Herb Asplund said the best approach would be to reach out to what other towns are doing. He will start with Tolland.
5. Sustainable Communities – Jim MacPherson talked to Michelle Lipe, who recommended that we emphasize outreach programs as the best way to earn points. He said instituting a CT Rides program in town might earn points. There is none now. Herb Asplund suggested

having a booth at Heritage Day. Karen Wagner will reach out to the Historical Society for guidance.

New Business

1. Karen Wagner welcomed our new member, Terry Hart.
2. Bylaw changes – Karen Wagner reported that the quorum requirement changes we made to our Commission's charge may not have been done properly. We need to be sure that the bylaws are officially changed. She will look into that and propose a new vote if needed.
3. New members packets – New members are now getting packets of information on the town including ethics guidelines and town contact. Jim MacPherson and Terry Hart have them. She will provide one for Thomas.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

The next meeting is June 25