

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission
Minutes of June 25, 2019 meeting

Present: Karen Wagner(chair), Jim MacPherson, Terry Hart, Herb Asplund, Josh Johnson, Thomas Scheinblum(intern)

The May minutes were approved as amended for a typo.

An amendment was added to the April minutes, noting that Thomas' intern work is for completion of his bachelor's degree, not a master's degree.

The agenda was approved with item 3 under Old Business moved to the start of the meeting so Josh Johnson could give his report and then leave for another meeting.

Thomas Scheinblum lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old business

1. Grants – Josh Johnson reported on his grants research. Use of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's \$100,000 grant for towns will be decided by a committee of residents. Those interested must file a form indicating that interest. Josh will fill the form out requesting to be on the committee and ask for help if needed. Herb Asplund suggested that Commission member Kathy Hale would be a good backup. Other members agreed. Josh also spoke to the Federal Transit Authority and led to seven grants with potential. He wants to narrow it down to two or three. Josh will send Karen Wagner the links to the grants he has found and she will forward them to Commission members. Thomas Scheinblum summarized his recent meetings with Michele Lipe and with Mike Gantick, who gave him the vision plan for the trolley project. He also talked to Jeff Dolittle about accessing information that the town can provide through memberships in certain organizations. He will meet with Jeff next week. Thomas also researched Enfield's approach to its grant to seek comparable data and bus user groups. He also summarized the grant qualifications he has identified so far: matching grants, economic development needs, senior and other cohorts. Karen Wagner suggested that Thomas get a mapping of areas in town with affordable housing. Karen reported that Kathy Hale has been trying to get information from Kara Radgins and CRCOG and will continue those efforts.
2. Bus education actions - *Teen center*: This item was tabled because Sue Larsen was absent. *Joint programs*: Herb Asplund talked to Tolland's director of planning. The town does not have a transit authority but he is interested in keeping informed about our efforts.
3. Sustainable Communities – Jim MacPherson found a few activities that can be included in this year's report. Karen Wagner said that the bus information we regularly leave at town hall and other spots should qualify as well. Karen reported that the Commission has been given a booth at Heritage Day, which is October 5. The Commission should plan this effort at the July and September meetings.

New Business

1. Karen Wagner reported that Carolyn Mirek has resigned from the Commission. She is moving.
2. Karen reported that Peter DeMaille, who is involved in a lot of regional planning, has asked the Commission to support efforts to extend train service to connect Springfield to Worcester, which also would connect it to Hartford, via the Hartford line. Commission members felt it was out of our prevue and declined to support it.
3. Jim MacPherson said he feels the library should take the transit information we are trying to distribute around town because it is a town effort. The library has rejected that in the past but Karen Wagner will talk to Library Director Mary Etter and try to change that. Herb Asplund will talk to a library board member that he knows to get their help too.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

The next meeting is July 23.