

Minutes of the August 12, 2020 Meeting of the
Southeast Vermont Transit Board of Directors
Via Video

President Chip Stearns called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Board Members: Chip Stearns, Joel Bluming, Seth Boyd, Wendy Harrison, Scott Tucker, Randy Capitani, Matt Mann who joined at 5:04 pm, Randy Capitani, and Seth Boyd who left the meeting at 6:11 pm.

Invited Guest: Tim Bradshaw

Members of the Public: None

Staff Present: Randy Schoonmaker, Christine Howe and Keith Johnson

Public Input: None

Review of Minutes: Review of June 10th meeting, no comments

Amend Agenda: None

Executive Session: Motion #1 Matt Mann, Joel seconded to enter Executive Session at 5:07 pm Executive Session reference VSA 313(a)(1)(a) contracts, where premature knowledge would place SEVT at a disadvantage by exposing our negotiation strategy and VSA 313A3 evaluation of an employee, all present invited. Motion passed 6-0.

Old Business:

Coronavirus update: Nothing new to report, with ridership being flat. The company overall is down by 60 percent. Wendy likes the new spotted buses.

Ridership: The White Line and the Springfield In-Town routes set records last year as a result of the virus. Overall, the Current was down from 159,000 rides to 138,000 rides, but there will be an asterisk on the ridership report due to the virus. The MOOver did 237,176 rides last year compared to 288,908 the year before. Total company ridership is down to about where it was four years ago. The overall company was a total of 375,000 rides and we are hoping to hit half a million someday.

Financial Overview: Chip discussed the surplus showing for year-end FY 2019 which the key part was the reimbursement of federal and state grants due to the COVID funds from federal grant at 100%. We are returning a little less than half of the COVID funds we received, which results in a surplus this year, because it is funded at 100%. We are showing about two hundred thousand to the good, very rough numbers. The revised budget in the packet is showing no condo service this year, but we are still using the budget we sent to the state with the grant application. We just wanted the Board to see a model budget without the condo service. Chip explained it is an exercise in preparedness. Matt asked if there was capital money in the COVID funds, but there was not.

Partner Updates:

Mount Snow: None

Stratton: None

Okemo: Randy discussed the opportunity for Okemo, and they have come back with information we requested. We do not know if we have the resources to help them this winter, but it is great news and good partnership relations. The map shows the route system in Okemo. The village of Ludlow is their core, and it is about one mile from the resort which has a large amount of on-mountain lodging. We suggested combining some employee and village shuttle routes into one route. We would use their drivers and shuttles to run the routes to being with. They run a good system and have good equipment.

Fundraising: The Current fundraising materials have been updated, and we are not going to go after national sponsors yet such as Cabot and Ben and Jerry's. Randy has generated lists for Brattleboro, Mid Valley and Upper Valley regions and will be sending out sponsorship packages. The rates have been lowered for year-round offers. We have coupled with ads inside the buses as well. Christine and Randy met about the Mount Snow sponsorships and think we have enough that were shut out last year here that we can sell out locally this year as well. We will go for bigger dollars next year when the pandemic is over.

Re-Branding In each region there will be a new brown spotted Holstein cow bus. We have 21 buses to spot, and seven will be done in Burlington at Yipes. They have done three and have four more to go. There was a Gillig bus shown that has been spotted. All Board Members commented positively on the looks. The uniforms are being completed and it will soon be done for the Rockingham division. Yesterday we opened the only bid for our ad agency. The company Four Nine is out of Burlington and they will start work on the brochure, website, and social media. Wendy asked what we are going to call the former Current, but for time being we are using Rockingham and Wilmington. We are trying to remove the word Current and going with one brand. Christine stated it is very well received. We want everyone to feel as one company, so we are careful to not say "up there" and down there" but use Rockingham and Wilmington. Chip asked since they have a little more capacity could we use the Gilligs in Wilmington, but as Randy explained they are bigger and not sure if they would make the turns. Uniforms that were originally in the Capital funding for rebranding will be paid out of COVID funding instead.

NEMT: There is no announcement yet. VPTA is working on income distribution. Randy thinks the formula he proposed may fly for FY21, but for FY20 there is some discussion. We are thinking we would re-enter Medicaid one region at a time. We are waiting on the Medicaid award decision. Tim explained that there was a consultant hired for cost allocation methodology statewide. He said that Randy and his staff dug into this allocation hard and came up with some good improvements. Randy presented it and did a great job presenting. Tim explained that now there is initial feedback and we will look over all responses and respond to questions, moving forward from there.

Rockingham Addition: The earmark spending update is \$543,725. Randy explained the spending update breakdown of the project cost. The bus wash upgrade is part of the adjustment in the project, pending funding. Randy showed the board pictures and discussed progress of the one bay

addition. Chip asked if the town is aware, we are using the park and ride for parking buses. Christine explained we have the permit in hand. Chip thanked Tim for flexibility for trying to close this earmark out.

Route 30 Study: Randy showed the Board questions and answers between himself, Tim and Ross regarding the Route 30 study. Tim explained that VTrans has some consultants on retainer so there is no need to go out to bid for the study. SEVT can just work directly with VTrans on the choice of consultant to do the study. Tim would like to meet with SEVT staff to develop a scope of work for the study. Randy wants to make sure we are all on the same page about who our riders are, to ensure the correct study scope. Matt said a large factor was the local match, which the partners came into play. From a commuter standpoint, Matt feels it is there, and it just might take a little longer to establish. Randy feels that we should plan on this route going from Brattleboro to Stratton, especially if Stratton could come in with Stratton to Manchester funding. Joel feels it will take a little longer as well, that it will take people time to rely on the service. Wendy asked if health and tourism could be part of the analysis. Tim explained that might be too broad for the current scope and budget, but he welcomes any feedback. We just need to work together to see what we want the scope to look like and work from there.

Replacement Board Member: Jamie Storrs has left the Board and there is a vacant seat. Seth suggested that the Nominating Committee get together to address the vacant seat. The committee consists of Matt, Wendy, Seth, and Randy C. A meeting will be set with Randy S to bring information back to general board. Matt suggested any Board member send ideas or input to the Nominating Committee. Joel would like to see the Board consider diversity.

New Business:

Title VI Vote Seth Boyd motioned to approve the updated Title VI document, Randy Capitani seconded, motion passed 7-0

Board Member Comments None

Future Agenda Items: None

Adjourn: Motion 3: Joel motioned to adjourn, Wendy seconded; adjourned at 7:10 pm