

Minutes of the August 15, 2019 Southeast Vermont Transit Board of Directors Meeting
Hannah Cosman Room
230 Main St
Brattleboro, Vermont

President Chip Stearns called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Board Members: Chip Stearns, Joel Bluming, Scott Tucker, Matt Mann and Wendy Harrison

Invited Guests: None

Members of the Public: Peter Elwell, Mike Fitzgerald and Art Niece

Staff Present: Leona Linney, Randy Schoonmaker, Rebecca Gagnon and Christine Fayette

Public Input: None

Review of July Minutes: Wendy noted she was not in attendance and wanted her name stricken from the record under New Board Member. She would prefer to say Matt and Wendy previously discussed reaching out to Seth Boyd.

Amend Agenda: Motion 1: Wendy motioned we delete the section, vote on new board member. Matt seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business:

Ridership: Ridership is up 13% at the Current over a year ago. The demand response routes are down due to getting out of the Adult Day business. Volunteer rides will increase later this year since we are lifting restrictions on the amount of dialysis and cancer treatment trips, along with increased medical trips from three a month to four. The MOOver is up 2% over last year. July Fourth ridership was as low as last year and Council on Aging is lower than last year due to the meal site being closed last month. The Brattleboro routes continue to increase over last year since implementing the new service in October. Rebecca will be reviewing the route timetables. The Red Line typically falls behind schedule, we need to evaluate the potential for changing that.

Financial Overview: The board reviewed the financials as presented. Chip noted the line of credit has been paid off since receiving our first grant installment. Chip also noted that since losing two mechanics the financials are adjusted with the MOOver mechanics working occasionally at the Current. Rebecca has three mechanic interviews lined up this week. Randy mentioned to attract candidates we have decided to offer a signing bonus.

Randy announced that we found a finance manager who will be ready to start September 16th. Leona who was to leave the end of September is willing to stay on until October 31st to train the new hire.

Tour of the Brattleboro Transit Facilities in the bus: Randy asked Mike Fitzgerald if he heard anything about the bus or had any interaction with the bus. Mike said not so much about the bus but the bus stops. Complaints are that bus stops are being used for everything except the use of transportation. Specific stops are Canal and Elm Streets. Peter also commented that poverty and homelessness is more prevalent this year especially during the summer months. The balance between addressing the needs of these community members and the concerns of other community members had been a struggle this summer. The needs have become greater and the Chief of Police has had to address police intervention responsibilities with his staff at great length. There is a larger number of people struggling this summer. The town has decided to address the issue in place rather than move people along. Therefore, the police are not moving people out of locations around town. This seems to appease most of the community members.

Rebecca noted there are three shelters that are underutilized and not being used or are used for things other than transit. The shelters are Brattleboro Bowl, The High Rise, and Elm/Canal. Suggestions were to remove the benches or shelters altogether but the town of Brattleboro prefers neither of those suggestions. The town of Brattleboro owns the shelters and will need to assess what the best options are. Rebecca also mentioned that they are having issues with theft at Tarmy's and would eventually be looking for another location. Discussion ensued regarding how to assess criminal activity and the role of the Brattleboro police.

At 7:25 all members moved to the bus except for Chief Fitzgerald. The group toured Tarmy's, the three bus shelters in question and portions of the new Blue Line route.

Adjourned at 8:00 pm