

Minutes of the June 9, 2021 Southeast Vermont Transit Board of Directors
Via Video

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

Board Members: Joel Bluming, Wendy Harrison, Randy Capitani, Seth Boyd, Chip Stearns, Dave Moulton arrived later.

Members of the Public: Stephen Dotson, Sustainability Coordinator Brattleboro, Colin Bratton Windham Regional Planning Commission

Staff Present: Randy Schoonmaker, Christine Howe and Keith Johnson

Guest Present: Tim Bradshaw, VTTrans,

Public Input: None

Review of Minutes: Review of May minutes.

Amend Agenda:

Executive Session: Motion#1 to enter executive session reference VSA 313(a)(1)(a) contracts, where premature knowledge would place SEVT at a disadvantage by exposing our negotiation strategy by Chip, Randy C seconded, and the motion passed 6-0 entered at 5:07 pm exited at 5:48

Old Business:

Coronavirus Update: Chip explained face masks are still required through September 13 but if the Governor lifts requirements, no social distancing and we can ease on the disinfecting. Seth mentioned about keeping up with the cleaning of buses. Christine clarified it is the intense disinfection that can be eased, and that we always clean buses.

Ridership: Randy presented the ridership, and fixed route is still lagging due to the pandemic. In Rockingham we are doing more Medicaid rides than any other location in the state. The Wilmington fixed routes are down 71%, and the total company is off 54% from a year ago. That gap will close in the coming weeks. Randy presented the ridership graphs. Randy explained in 2019 we had a record year, and 2020 was close until COVID.

Financial Overview: The financial summary was presented, and we are only into the LOC for \$25,000.

Partner Updates:

Mount Snow: Discussed in executive session.

Stratton: Randy expressed the concern to add this service in FY22 due to working on restoring local service from last year first. Seth agrees that we need to focus on previous service

restored first. Seth discussed the problem of housing for Stratton. The interest for public transportation to Stratton is needed but challenging. Joel reiterated the need for everyone to contribute to “make it happen”.

Okemo: Randy expressed the concern to add this service FY22 due to working on restoring local service from last year first.

NEMT: Chip explained the situation regarding the catalytic convertor theft and the great effort that Dispatch did to re-schedule the rides, only missing eight that day. Chip and the board expressed their gratitude to Sara and all of Dispatch.

Route 30 Study: Tim gave an update that we are working on a Steering Committee meeting very soon and move forward from there.

Strategic Plan Update: Chip mentioned that we would discuss one topic per meeting. Randy explained we updated the plan but have nothing to report this meeting. Wendy explained that the point was to go over a topic more fully. Randy explained it is under documents on Directorpoint and ready for the board to review and bring up topics. Chip asked Board members to let him know what topic the board member wanted to review at the next meeting, and he will put it on the agenda.

New Business:

SEVT Property Use Policy: Randy explained as we are getting some requests to use of the property, we would like a policy stating that our facilities are not available for public use. Chip asked if we have a draft policy. Randy said we do have a policy in draft and can send it to the board for review. Chip would like the policy in the next agenda and part of the next packet for the board to review, and/or change. Chip would like it to be explicit to explain the reasons for the policy stating the FTA.

Release of “The Current” trade name: Keith explained that there is a business in Stowe, Vermont that rebranded and called to ask if we would relinquish “The Current” trade name with the Secretary of State’s office. Keith explained that everything with business filings and taxes has all been moved to Southeast Vermont Transit, so he does not feel we need to keep “The Current” as a registered trade name. Keith does not see any legal obligations. Randy C asked if we could have a right of refusal, even though we would not want it, but we cannot. **Motion #2: Made by Chip, Joel seconded if review from legal counsel finds it acceptable to release The Current we will release it to the other organization. Motion passed 6-0**

Company Updates:

Board Member Comments: Wendy wanted to give an “atta boy” for the sponsorship for Mindlock.

Future Agenda Items: Strategic plan single item to review should go to Randy or Chip. Review authorities for day-to-day operations under state of emergency and COVID.

Adjourn: Wendy motioned to adjourn, Seth seconded, adjourned at 6:35 pm.