

# Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council For Community Transportation

## MINUTES

September 26, 2017

2:00 p.m.

Present: Ellen Avery, *Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC)*; Suzanne Bansley, *Cheshire County*; Kathy Baird, *Monadnock RSVP*; April Buzby, *Keene Housing*; Linda Diluzio, *R. J. Diluzio Ambulance Service, LLC*; Jim Duffy, *Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock Center for Population Health*; Bill Graff, *Monadnock at Home*; Bob Perry, *Volunteers Enabling Transportation (VET)*; Erica Roper, *Windham Regional Commission*; Kelly Steiner, *Monadnock United Way (MUW)*.

SWRPC Staff present were J. B. Mack, *Principial Planner* and Mari Brunner, *Planner*.

### **I. Minutes of June 21, 2017**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **II. Election of Officers**

Kelly Steiner explained that it is time to elect new MRCC officers. J. B. Mack explained that the MRCC bylaws stipulate that there are Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary positions, all of which have 2 year terms, which technically start July 1<sup>st</sup>. He explained that the bylaws state that no officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms and recited Section 4.03 of the bylaws which discusses the responsibilities of the officers.

Motion: To elect Kathy Baird, Michael Acerno, Ellen Avery and Suzanne Bansley and April Buzby as Chair, Vice Chair, Co-Treasurers and Secretary, respectively.

**Motion by Bob Perry, Bill Graff seconded.**

### **III. Continuation of MRCC Future Projects Discussion**

Erica Roper came in.

Kelly introduced topic talked about confusion using the project form. Worked with Mari to provide a facilitated process. Mari is going to facilitate process, what are our priorities and how we can contribute to the process.

Start out by going through the list. What are the priorities for the region.

Suzanne Bansley came in.

Ellen asked about new long distance medical ride services. Linda D. said she thinks there is a need for more long distane medical services. Diluzio receives calls and refers to HCS.

Ellen difference between 8 and 10? April, does one cancel out another. Michael no.

Kelly, what are SCC's priorities? Michael said operating standards a priority and vehicle standards important to NHDOT. J. B. talked about SCC definition for community transportation including disability, low income, and seniors.

Mari explanation on first and second columns. Bill Graff asked about if not expert, for example #5. Kelly suggested that you try and fill out all of the cells/columns.

Bob Perry said that he misinterpreted how to fill out the second column. When he was thinking about capacity, he was thinking that it was something that we are already doing.

#### **IV. Partner Updates**

City Express: Susan Ashworth reported that the City Express has a new bus stop on Winchester Street in front of Randall Hall with a bus that stops two minutes after the hour. HCS has been working with Keene State College to expand opportunities for students to volunteer and access health services. She also announced that next week is transit week and October 5, 2017 will be a "free ride day."

SCS Claremont: Terry Paige said that SCS Claremont is celebrating their first year of service in Claremont on October 11<sup>th</sup>, including a "passport to independence" program. Gary Welch asked if they are still doing a volunteer driver program, and Terry Paige said that they are.

NHDOT GACIT Hearings: J. B. Mack said that the Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) had a hearing last week in Keene and another one will take place on October 18<sup>th</sup> in Peterborough. The State proposes a continuation of "flexing" surface transportation funds to the FTA 5310 purchase of service funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 per year. Eighty percent (\$800,000) of this is federal money with a 20% (\$200,000) state match. Ellen Avery, Michael Acerno, and Susan Ashworth testified at the GACIT hearing in Keene and talked about the importance of community transportation. Ellen Avery said that it is important to show up to these hearings even if you do not speak. Susan Ashworth said that there was good representation from public and community transportation. Terry Paige said that Rebecca Harris from Transport NH has a great resource with talking points for the GACIT hearings.

NH Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment: J. B. Mack gave an overview of the NH Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment (SSTA). The state held a small focus group listening session in Keene in July which was held at SWRPC. The focus of the study is on transit and park-and-ride lots, however they are gathering input and data on demand-response transportation services as well. If anyone is interested in learning more, contact J. B. Mack. The consultant facilitating the SSTA process has expressed interest in having larger listening sessions in 2017 and 2018.

### Other Updates:

- Terry Paige said that Fred Butler from NHDOT is interested in hearing if there is any interest in funding 8-passenger vehicles through the 5310 program. Currently, the smallest vehicle they will fund is a 12-passenger vehicle. If there is a need/interest in smaller vehicles, they could allow these funds to be used for that purpose.
- Chuck Weed asked if one of MRCC's functions should be to advocate for fixed transit in the region, for example between Troy and Keene. J. B. gave an overview of the fixed routes that currently exist in the region and past studies that looked at the possibility of fixed routes, such as the Route 10 corridor study and the Route 12 north corridor study. Terry Paige added that the fixed transit routes they have in Charlestown, Newport, and Claremont were created when there were 5311 funds available. The only revenue currently available for transit service is for commuter runs, which is geared towards workforce services. SCS Claremont is currently having difficulty getting riders on the bus in Charlestown and Newport because it requires a culture shift. People don't want to wait one or two hours for the bus, however more frequent service is not possible in many cases. Susan Ashworth said that HCS used to run a bus to Winchester, but people were not using it. The issue is that people have to shift from a car-centric culture, where they can go anywhere at any time, to transit service, which requires waiting and limitations in where you can go.
- Terry Paige said she would like to partner with HCS to offer rides between Keene and Lebanon on HCS' Wednesday service. The goal of this partnership would be to make routes between Keene and Lebanon more efficient and convenient for riders. Ellen Avery asked if there is enough ridership to do more than one trip to Lebanon. Susan Ashworth said that HCS is currently able to meet the need for trips to Lebanon. Terry Paige said that a transit service to Lebanon would free up many of their volunteer drivers and help them meet their unmet needs in other areas. Kelly Steiner noted that this is a good opportunity to leverage partnerships to meet rider's needs.

### **V. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

### **VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled approximately a month from now through a Doodle poll.

### **VII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.