

Ad Hoc Committee Meeting- Claremont Amtrak Stop
October 14, 2014
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Meeting started at 6:00pm

Attendees:

Ward II Councilor Charlene Lovett (chair)
Ward I Councilor Carolyn Towle
At-Large Councilor James Reed (Arrived at 6:01pm)
Ray Gagnon State Rep of NH

Minutes reviewed: Passed 3-1 Mr. Reed voted no to approve minutes for the reasoning he did not get to review the minutes that were edited by Chair Lovett.

Guest - Chief Alex Scott who was invited to speak with us about passenger safety and security, and what upgrades might be needed.

- Cameras too few on site, not monitored by the police
- 1 theft call out of 43 pages of call over a year's time, and it was on the Lambert dealership property
- 0 calls on Amtrak train or property
- Inadequate lighting and unpaved parking creates the perception of lack of security/safety

Mr. Gagnon asked about funding from homeland security. Mr. Scott said our City is not large enough for that type of funding. It is a private parking lot, and is not covered under the municipality procedures as is the public parking garage in downtown Claremont.

We briefed Mr. Scott on our goal to have a shelter in place which would be a 3-sided shelter with a roof top to keep passengers protected from the elements. We asked for his thoughts on this.

- Preferably, shelter should be of plexiglass or similar material and visible from the road. This will give police maximum visibility when monitoring the area during regular patrols.
- Could get a wireless fire box put down there for extra safety. Mr. Scott would mention it to Fire Chief Bergeron.

Mr. Gagnon said we should look into a hot spot down there, similar to what the Public Library has.

Mr. Andrew O'Hearne said that if you want to get the hot spot, you should tie it into the ticket purchase. A temporary pass code for WIFI could be given to the passenger. He mentioned that this type of service should also be provided at the airport during future development discussions.

Ms. Lovett mentioned that Assistant Mayor Bergeron recently used the Bellows Falls Amtrak stop because of the availability of long-term parking.

We discussed a road trip to Windsor/Bellows Fall VT stations on 10/29/14.

Mr. O'Hearne shared another thought on cameras - perhaps a 360 degree rotating camera would limit the amount needed. Look into Amtrak for funding as it would help to protect their property and enhance public safety.

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Mr. Lambert offered to install additional cameras if the Police Department would monitor them.

Update information for next meetings and future:

Liz Chipman and Pam Joslin will attend the Oct 21st meeting.

Bill Hollister waiting on trailblazer signs.

Dates of interest:

10/22 Report due to City Council

10/24 Mr. Gagnon attends the NH Passenger Rail Authority meeting

10/29 Vermont Transportation Agency, Rail Council, Montpelier VT

11/17 NNEIRI, White River Jct

Future Items:

Grant writing for outside shelter

Landscaping plan for Spring to be approved by Lamberts

A motion was made by Ms. Towle and seconded by Ms. Reed to adjourn

Motion passed 4-0

Adjourned 7:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Councilor James Reed