

Ad Hoc Committee Meeting- Claremont Amtrak Stop
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Meeting called to order at 6pm by Chair Lovett

Attending the meeting:

Ward I Councilor Carolyn Towle
Ward II Councilor Charlene Lovett (Chair)
At-Large Councilor James Reed
Ray Gagnon State of NH Rep.

Review of minutes from last meeting was postponed until next meeting as Ms. Lovett realized Mr. Reed has been extremely busy.

Guest tonight is Ms. Liz Chipman:

Ms. Lovett updated us on progress:

- 15 trailblazer signs have been ordered
- spoke with Mr. Hollister they are coming from New Haven, CT
- they are being shipped to DPW and Norma Limoges will call when they are in
- Mr. Gagnon needs to do a follow up with State DOT- Mr. Gagnon stated he will follow up Friday
- Ms. Lovett mentioned she picked up two passengers Saturday night and 3 of the 6 lights were not working. A citizen, who attended the meeting, mentioned those lights are on a timer to conserve energy and are supposed to turn on prior to the train arrival and shut off after it departs. Ms. Lovett noted that this did not occur on Saturday night.

Mrs. Towle wanted to discuss whether we should attend the Vermont Rail Transit meeting in Montpelier on 10/29. She wanted to know what Mr. Hollister thoughts were of us taking part in this.

Ms. Lovett mentioned that Mr. Hollister gave us the invitation to observe and get information.

Mr. Gagnon questioned whether taking part would be tactful given NH's lack of monetary support of rail transit.

Mr. Reed stated we should not let an opportunity pass to learn and be informed before the November NNEIRI meeting.

Ms. Lovett will contact Mr. Hollister for guidance as to whether it would be appropriate for members of the Ad Hoc Committee to attend.

Ms. Chipman was given the floor to give us an update on the CATS proposal:

- 11:42 train stop Monday thru Friday
- drop passengers off at stop fifteen minutes before train arrival - pick up arriving passengers and transport to any location in Charlestown, Claremont and Newport

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- pick up location to get a bus ride to train could be at the Parking Garage, the North Street parking lot at the Visitors Center, or at any stop along bus route
- CATS is willing to contribute \$700 dollars towards the added one mile route if the City is able to provide the other \$1300

Mr. Gagnon mentioned that this amount could be incorporated into the next City Council budget process.

- Perhaps raise the rate for train passengers
- There was talk of grants among State Reps and Chair at the Sept 23 meeting
- CATS currently receives grants from the County via Delegation approval
- Transportation revenue streaming
- Claremont should help fund this
- We the city could write this as a contract for the additional fee
- Currently the window is closed for County grants.
- The evening extended route could be written as a pilot in January budget

Ms. Lovett said this M-F 11:42 stop is doable (\$700.00 CATS/\$1300 City)

- Lets test this now and use the data collected to demonstrate whether there is a need to move forward with evening bus transportation to/from train stop.
- Funding for extended evening bus service could be via partnerships, federal bus/bus facility grants as listed on the Amtrak website, etc

Mr. Reed stated this is now the time to inform the public of our work via CCTV in order to get additional help and funding options.

Ms. Towle also agreed with Mr. Reed on getting all of this information out there to the public.

Ms. Chipman made mention that we could also use WYCN, a local station, for getting info out there. She is going to provide us contact information for WYCN. The other ways to inform the public is via utube and facebook.

Ms. Lovett needed a price quote from CATS for a bus wrap to advertise Amtrak service, and relay this information to Deb Sanderson, Amtrak Northeast Region Marketing Rep.

Mr. Gagnon recommended that we request federal funds via NH DOT.

Ms. Chipman will get a price quote, and mentioned that US Cellular is also considering bus wrap advertising.

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Ms. Towle says she has a source in Nashua NH from whom she may be able to get information regarding bus wraps. She also stated she would like to get some examples of how wraps are done.

Ms. Lovett commented that we could potentially partner with River Valley Community College, Granite State College and any other organizations needing evening bus transportation to help fund extending bus service.

The need for a shelter and call box were also discussed. Ms. Chipman said the shelter could be funded through a federal grant.

Mr. Gagnon said we could explore restoring the CATS connection to meet with exit 8 (-91) commuters coming back & forth from Lebanon/Hanover.

Mr. Gagnon made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Reed seconded the motion.

voice vote 4-0
motion passes
Adjourned at 7:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Councilor James Reed

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