

CITIZENS' TRANSIT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 28, 2012

A meeting of the Citizens' Transit Committee (CTC) was called to order by its chairman, James Ross, on August 28, 2012 in Room 309 of the Westport Town Hall. Committee member Carolin Sigal acted as secretary.

Attending committee members were Jim Ross, Peter Gold, Carl Lindahl, Terry Giegengack, Zoe Cohen, and Carolin Sigal.

Public Attendees included Jennifer Johnson, Co-Director of the Westport Transit District, State Representative Jonathan Steinberg, and from the Westport Department of Human Services, Elaine Daignault, Youth Services and Mentor Program Coordinator, and Kevin Godburn, Toquet Hall Director.

The meeting opened with a review of highlights from the August 21, 2012 meeting which featured Sue Prosi, Senior Regional Transportation Coordinator for the Southwestern Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA). Sue had offered valuable information regarding current regional transit services, and within a few days after the meeting had sent along valuable links to CTC members to help educate them regarding relevant public transit issues. In addition to the recap of the August 21 meeting, it was proposed to the CTC that it consider putting together an on-line questionnaire for parents of school-aged students pertaining to after-school public transportation service. This led to an introduction of the guests for the August 28 meeting, Elaine Daignault and Kevin Godburn of the Westport Department of Human Services.

Elaine shared information regarding current routing of the after-school shuttle buses. Questions were raised regarding the efficiency of the shuttles, whether the efficiency could be improved upon, and who would have the authority to change the shuttle routes.

Currently, a large part of the after-school ridership is middle-school aged students going to religious education classes. How could that ridership be improved upon?

There had been a Community Service Corps (CSC) bus that used to take students to their volunteer positions through the CSC. Unfortunately, due to a loss of the grant that funded it, the service was cancelled. It was wondered if the after-school bus could pick up some of that slack.

Toquet Hall is a town-run, after-school organization for teens offering a variety of activities and services. Many of the students who are invited to participate in these offerings are too young to drive, and would benefit by using the public transit offered after school. Conversely, the Westport Transit District would benefit by Toquet Hall's marketing the transit services through their web-site.

It was also suggested that a way be found to make working parents more aware of the available after-school public transportation services, as well as commuter shuttle services.

Finally, it was suggested that the CTC and WTD look into the possibility of a summertime shuttle that would run from various points in town to Longshore and Compo Beach as a way for the town's youths to have a safe, reliable way to get to the aforementioned during summer months.

Jim Ross concluded the meeting by thanking Elaine and Kevin, and reminding the CTC that there would be no meeting on Tuesday, September 4, and that the next meeting, on Tuesday September 11, would begin at 8:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM.