

## Westport Citizens Transit Committee: Meeting Notes

Oct. 3, 2012

**Attendees:** Jim Ross, Carl Lindhal, Melissa Salottolo, Carolin Sigal, Jennifer Johnson, Terry Giegengack

- Meeting tomorrow morning at Senior Center to meet with citizens and garner feedback; top story in this week's Westport News. Jim, Caroline, Jennifer and Terry to attend.
  - Goal is to solicit feedback and ideas from attendees
  - Will leave Transit suggestion box at Center for the week
  
- Alias for Citizens Transit Committee: [wpctc@westportct.gov](mailto:wpctc@westportct.gov)
  
- Blog on Westport Patch for CTC is new
  
- Youth Commission meeting scheduled for November 15 at Teen Center, 7:15 pm – Room 201, Town Hall
  
- Next meeting – Oct. 17 – will focus on brainstorm marketing ideas and what we can accomplish short term and long term
  
- **Guest Speaker: Nancy McCormick, ITN Coastal CT**
  - Affiliate of ITN America; serve Westport, Weston, Easton and Fairfield. Expand to New Canaan, Bridgeport, Darien, others; non for profit (60% volunteer drivers); membership and fee per ride model; scholarship fund of donated miles by the volunteer drivers with various mileage
  - Average cost of ride is \$8 – \$10; giving 400 rides per month – most rides are in Westport at this point; never have turned ride down
  - Criteria for rides: Over 60, or visually impaired adult
  - Can't take wheelchair

- Have ability to do partnerships – ie, religious organization set up funds and then offsite the ride
- Healthy Miles, Healthy Smiles – opportunities to partner to underwrite the cost of the ride
- 23 ITNs around the country – some have partnership with municipalities to reduce ride costs
- \$3.50 pick-up charge, then \$1.50 per mile but minimum is \$8 (\$16 round trip). Cost to ITN is \$32 to deliver the ride.
- Does rides such as one parent and child on weekend – allows a parent to be able to give children support for those who don't have vision
- Volunteers – 65; have local events to recruit new drivers. One ride, one way, once a month. Can volunteer as much or as little as you can.
- Car trades, car donation programs; reciprocal arrangements with other ITNs across the country
- People think it is expensive; if we could lower
- Possible downside is risk is growing too fast and can't deliver rides if tied to Westport CTC
- Call 4 pm the day before for best rate; discourage same day rides unless emergency
- Unlike DTD, ITN operates weekends and 24x7
- "Door through Door" and "Arm in Arm" – background check on all drivers to help riders
- Also have an hourly service, which offers services such as grocery shopping
- There are seniors that don't participate in activities b/c of the hours of DTD service so they ITN does one way service
- ITN will continue to expand as the population gets older in the community
- ITN America started in Portland, Maine by a woman whose son was hit by an elderly driver
- Funding from United Way, Rotary, private donations and other foundations
- Use sophisticated software to arrange rides, through ITN America