

Westport Transit District Directors' Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 17, 2014 at 9:30 AM – Westport-Weston Family Y – Schine Conference Room

Attending

Westport Transit District Directors: Eugene Cederbaum and Jennifer Johnson; Dewey Loselle, Eileen Flug, Cathy Talmadge, Peter Gold, Richard Lowenstein, Sal Liccione, Philip Sharlach; Westport Now: James Lomuscio; and, Norwalk Transit District: Nancy Carroll.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. The minutes of the previous meeting were not circulated so action was postponed until the next meeting.

Public Comment

Peter Gold, indicated that the RTM Transit Committee would be meeting on October 29, 2014 at 7:30 PM and the Westport Citizens' Transit Committee (CTC) would be attending.

Discussion of Transit Directors' Roles (Proposed Resolution)

Mr. Cederbaum reviewed the enabling legislation that led to the formation of the Transit District and their designation to seek funding. Of note are the 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development which states the importance of public transit service and the need to expand these services. The intent of the resolution (Attachment 1 - proposed) is to clarify the role of the Westport Transit District consistent with the statute, the 1969 Town resolution and the 2007 Plan. The Directors are seeking the RTM endorsement of this resolution. Discussion followed and some language modifications were recommended. The resolution as finalized in Attachment 2 (labeled amended, as submitted) was moved by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cederbaum and adopted.

Mid-Day Service Route – Preliminary Discussion

Discussion was led by Ms. Johnson. She reported on the First Selectman's Advisory Committee for After School Transportation. Consideration of a "loop service" during the mid-day that would serve multiple destinations and users was discussed.

Marketing

Ms. Johnson requested the Norwalk Transit District to implement the marketing program from this point forward and suggested more presence on the web.

Transit Oriented Development – ConnDOT Grant Opportunity

Ms. Johnson led a discussion on transit oriented development and the availability of \$5,000,000 in CT Department of Transportation planning funds for this purpose. It was suggested that the Town pursue this funding with a focus on development around the train station. November 14, 2014 was the submission deadline. Mr. Loselle questioned the goals and their value as they would relate to the Town with regards to development. The Directors agreed to list said goals and share them with the Town.

RR Parking Fund – Request to BOF for Transportation Funds (Proposed Resolution)

Mr. Cederbaum led a discussion on the proposed resolution (Attachment 3 - proposed) which would allow for the use of railroad parking income for transportation improvements and/or to support transit service. Considerable discussion followed among those in attendance, specifically, the oversight by the Police Department, the role of the State, results of the 2012 audit, and whether this should be an administrative action rather than a resolution. The resolution as finalized in Attachment 4 (labeled amended, as submitted) was moved by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cederbaum and adopted.

Norwalk Transit District Report

Mrs. Carroll reported on the November 9th Metro North schedule change and the related update to the Commuter Route Schedules. She also reported on the status of the ITS project. She announced the retirement of Mr. Schulman as Administrator and the selection of his replacement. Mr. Cederbaum acknowledged Mr. Schulman's work with the Transit District and wished him well in retirement.

Westport Bus and Rail Studies

There was no discussion.

Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy R. Carroll, Chief Operating Officer
Norwalk Transit District