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TOWN OF BURLINGTON
Transportation Study Committee (TSC) Minutes

May 26, 2021

Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm via Webex

Voting Members Present: Millie Nash (MN), Jen Gelinas (JG), David VanCamp (DVC), Patricia O'Brien (POB), Eileen Sickler (ES), Myrna Saltman (MS)

Non-Voting Members Present: John Strauss (JS), BAR youth group (BAR), Judy Crossman (JC) BAR youth coordinator/teacher, Mike Runyon (MR) Select Board Transportation subcommittee member

1. Minutes

- MN noted there no minutes from the May 5th meeting. ES confirmed they were missing and would be completed for approval at the next meeting.

2. General Discussion

- The BAR presented their survey results that included 1184 responses split between MSMS and HS of 46% and 54%, respectively.
- Approximately 52% (average of morning and afternoon) of students drive with a parent or guardian to/from school and an average of 36% take the bus. There was 13% that said they were prevented from after school activities due to lack of transportation and 45% said they would participate in more after school activities if there had transportation.
- BAR also noted problem/unsafe areas in town including Lexington St., Cambridge St. Beacon Village, Fox Hill Road, Mill St. among others.
- The takeaways from the survey were the need for more/better sidewalks, the need for transportation and the reality that access to reliable transportation is a privilege and without it, many students lose and are not served equitably.
- POB noted the inequity of Burlington transportation. Colleges view extracurricular activities of students positively which effects student's overall profile when applying to colleges. Consequently, not having the ability to participate in after school activities has a negative effect on not only school life but future college opportunities.
- MR was not aware there was an age requirement of 18 for the local Uber program and said they were working on this. He also mentioned having received phone calls from parents who complained their children had to walk some distance instead of having an available school bus. It was discussed that due to COVID, there was a revised policy stating that the number of bus seats were decreased allowing for safe/social distancing. The effect of this revised policy meant students within a certain radius of school were not able to have access to a bus.
- ES mentioned that it would be good to ask Dr. Conti how many students took the bus. If there were fewer students who used the bus than estimated in the revised seating policy, then the radius could be less restrictive, and more students would have access to the bus.
- MN suggested the survey be posted to the town's website
- DVC asked MR about Nick Priest's presentation at the recent BOS meeting of a proposed subcommittee. MR said there too many members on his draft and would not be practical and that Selectmen Priest is revising the member list.
- Our committee's charter was satisfied with the report to Town Meeting on May 10th. We discussed staying as an ad hoc committee and working with the General By-Law Review



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Committee (GBRC) to prepare a By-Law for a standing Transportation Committee. The question was raised whether to continue as an hoc Committee or dissolve our current Committee.

- MN made a motion to dissolve our current ad hoc Committee. ES seconded the motion.
 - There was one vote to dissolve and five votes NOT to dissolve. Motion failed.
 - DVC will contact Scott Martin, Chair of GBRC to put us on the agenda where we can talk about the draft By-Law language Scott Martin had sent us.
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3. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date/Time

- Homework – review the draft By-Law prepared by Scott Martin and bring any changes to our next meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:43 with all in favor
- Next meeting date and time is Wednesday, June 2 at 7 pm

*Respectfully Submitted,
Eileen Sickler, Recording Secretary*

Approved: Unanimously, June 2, 2021

