

August 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority Advisory Board

Ms. Gompert stated in accordance with Governor Baker's emergency modification of the Open Meeting Law this meeting will be held virtually. Remote participation only via Zoom Video Communications.

Present: Alice Butler, Oak Bluffs; Mark Snider, Edgartown; Elaine Miller, Tisbury; Lenny Jason, Chilmark; Susanna Sturgis, West Tisbury; June Manning, Aquinnah; Anne Sylvester, Community Disabled Rider Rep, Edgartown; Angela Gompert - VTA, and Lauren Thomas- VTA.

Guests: Richard Townes and Vicki Moreis

11:12 am Ms. Butler called the meeting to order

Public Comments: There were no public comments

Minutes: Ms. Sturgis made a motion to accept the minutes from July 23, 2020. Mr. Jason 2nd. m/s/c

Old/New Business:

- A) Operations Update: Ms. Gompert advised the board July saw an average of 2800 passengers per day with the exception of last week July into first week of August with approximately 3000 passengers. She stated looking at the fall schedule it will be similar to last fall's schedule and will be the one for next spring. She informed the board that in the deep winter, December through March, will be piloting a micro transit for up island (Aquinnah, North Road, Middle Road to Airport and down island Airport to Edgartown) , Routes 7 and 9 (Oak Bluffs) and Route 8 (South Beach/Katama).

Ms. Sturgis inquired about the current grievance and mediation that was taking place with TCI if this was the appropriate time to discuss. Ms. Gompert stated it was not but as it is an operation issue with TCI; Ms. Gompert stated they were met last week but unknown if they were meeting this week. Ms. Sturgis advised the board that she is a trained as a mediator and has been involved in various mediations and it surprised her to learn that counsel was involved where mediation is an attempt to resolve the issue without lawyers, implication on budget with lawyer fees. Ms. Gompert stated TCI was authorized to use attorneys for mediation if needed. Ms. Manning inquired the rate of pay for attorney and Ms. Gompert stated she did not have that information. Ms. Gompert stated that TCI has a budget of \$110,000.00 for legal fees.

- B) Zone Fare for Off Season: Ms. Gompert discussed with the board a year round fare rate that would be the same as our current fare rate. She also discussed Annual Pass fares. She would like to potentially allow riders the option to pay for Annual Pass within months of January, February and March. She stated if the rider bought the monthly pass, \$60.00, in January and February and retained the passes they can pay the difference of \$30.00 in March for the Annual. Ms. Manning stated she felt that was a great idea.

C) Ridership through July 2020: Ridership was at 85,685 and down 65% from July 2019.

Items not reasonably anticipated to be discussed: Ms. Sturgis stated she would like to discuss the social media policy. She stated she felt the policy did not include input from people who were familiar with social media. Ms. Gompert stated the policy was written approximately a year ago and went to legal counsel for review. She stated it was an agency wide policy that described expectations of a public employee and that TCI is an agent on the VTA's behalf. Ms. Manning inquired if the policy violated the 1st Amendment rights. Ms. Gompert stated it did not and stated again why legal counsel was consulted for the document.

Next meeting:

Mr. Jason made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Ms Sturgis 2nd. m/s/c

Date

Signed