

VTA Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2020

The Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority Advisory Board met Friday, March, 13, 2020, at 9:30 AM at the offices of the Transit Authority, 11 A Street, Edgartown. Present were Alice Butler (Oak Bluffs), John Alley (West Tisbury), Lenny Jason (Chilmark), Elaine Miller (Tisbury), Mark Snider (Edgartown) and Sarah Nevin, Disabled Community Representative, Edgartown. Also present were Angela Gompert (VTA), Lauren Thomas (VTA), Suzanne Cioffi (VTA) and Andrew Grant (VTA)

Absent was Carlton Crocker, Rider Community Representative-Chilmark, and June Manning, Aquinnah

Guests at the meeting: Steve Soriano, Vineyard Haven, Susanna Sturgis, West Tisbury, Richard Townes, Vineyard Haven, Jason Chalifoux, Edgartown, Vicky Maciel, Edgartown, Zachary MacDonald-Baird, Edgartown, Katherine Kavanough, Vineyard Haven, Kevan Nichols, Vineyard Haven

The meeting was called to order at 9:31am.

Public Comments

Ms. Sturgis, Coalition to Restore Vineyard Transportation, presented the board with a hand out, see attached, regarding improved communication and more transparency to lead to better public relations and recommendations to the board. She read her handout to the board.

Mr. Chalifoux stated he would like to see meetings on MVTV so he could go home and watch instead of costing him \$150.00 per meeting as he has to take the day off of work. He said he wanted to talk about the meeting that took place on Monday (3/9/2020) that was not posted. Ms. Gompert advised Mr. Chalifoux that there was not a meeting that took place on Monday and the meeting of the Audit and Finance Subcommittee had been properly posted and took place on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Minutes: Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from January 10, 2020, Mr. Alley 2nd. Mr. Snider stated correction his name on page 2. Ms. Miller made a motion to approve as amended. Mr. Alley 2nd. m/s/c. Ms. Nevin abstained.

Ridership: Ms. Gompert advised ridership is down 15% through February 2020, as compared to FY 19. She stated the decrease was from loss of summer ridership and the interlining of the schedule this winter.

Financial Update:

Financials: Ms. Gompert provided the board with financials through February 29, 2020. Ms. Gompert advised the board that revenues are up even though ridership is down; she stated this due to fare increase. The annual pass sales are down this year but cash in fare boxes is up. The board asked questions and were provided answers. Ms. Gompert stated that every five years we have a

Comprehensive Regional Plan and the consultants were planning to come to the island and conduct surveys. She stated that due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) all travel has been suspended so at this time the survey cannot take place. She stated that the VTA is looking at possibly installing Automatic Passenger Counters on the buses to see where people are getting off and on.

Fares: Ms. Gompert asked the board to vote on a procedure for the fare increase. She suggested that having \$1.25 per town fares for the off season and \$2.00 fares during the in season. The board asked questions and were provided answers. Mr. Alley made a motion to have an off season rate of \$1.25 per town and in season \$2.00 per town. Mr. Jason 2nd. m/s/c

Additional Town Funding Ms. Miller informed the board the VTA sent letters to all the towns outlining the request for additional funding for restoration of services. She stated West Tisbury, Chilmark and Aquinnah have on their Town Warrants. She stated Edgartown has it on their Town Warrant but the language states will participate if all other towns participate. She said Tisbury ignored the warrant article and did not put on Town Warrant. Also, Oak Bluffs is unknown as there has not been a response for the town. Ms. Miller stated it is important to take note that VTA went to the towns and was requesting for their voters to decide on funding. She said the Selectmen made decision on either allowing the warrant articles or not having the warrant articles and was not an Advisory Board decision.

State Budget Ms. Gompert said the state budget is in process but due to COVID-19 does not have a definitive answer but feels comfortable with projected increase of \$95,000 for the VTA.

FY2021 Budget Ms. Gompert stated the VTA Operating Budget for FY2021 was presented and approved by the Audit and Finance Subcommittee on Wednesday. The recommended FY2021 budget is \$6,397,231.00. Mr. Jason made a motion to approve the subcommittee's recommendation for FY2021 Budget. Mr. Alley 2nd. m/s/c

Ms. Gompert informed the board that the lease with the Airport is still not in agreement. She stated at this time still operating as is with the airport and that the RMV is now a tenant at will and has agreed to be a tenant for the next 6 months.

Revenue Anticipation Note

Ms. Gompert stated she will be applying for the RAN for FY21. She stated the current RAN is \$1,750,000.00 and she will be increasing the amount to \$2,000,000.00 to Bond Counsel for approval.

Old/New Business:

Operations Update

Andrew Grant presented the board with a projected schedule from April 9 to June 5, 2020. He stated the schedule will be similar to last fall's schedule from September 29 to November 30 with exclusion for Memorial Day Weekend that will have more service. He informed the board that Routes 1 and 13 will not be included in the interlining of the remaining routes and will be dedicated headway schedules. The board asked a series of questions regarding service and Mr. Grant provided answers.

Capital Projects

Ms. Gompert informed the board that the Permanent Transformer went on live at 11 A Street on March 12, 2020 for the electric buses. She stated the project on Church Street is on hold as a citizen in town was able to get a non-binding referendum added to town warrant for a ballot question. She stated she will need to attend town meeting to give a presentation on the project for inductive charging stations. Mr. Snider stated the project is an excellent plan and as the representative to Edgartown he will be having conversations regarding the project that has already been approved after several meetings and votes in Edgartown.

COVID-19

Ms. Thomas and Ms. Cioffi advised the board that all buses are being sanitized by EvaClean Products and that hand sanitizer's were added to the buses, both as hand pumps and wipes. Ms. Thomas stated more hand sanitizing pumps have been ordered but there is a back order until week of March 23.

Comprehensive Regional Plan

Ms. Gompert stated the Comprehensive Regional Plan is a 5 year mandate from the state and will resume after the restrictions of COVID-19 is lifted.

Items not reasonably anticipated

The board discussed moving the meetings from 2nd Friday of the month to Thursdays. The board agreed to move the meetings to the 2nd Thursday of the month; next meeting will be Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 9:30 am.

10:56 am Mr. Alley made a motion to close the open meeting and go into Executive Session and not to resume back into open session. Mr. Jason 2nd. Roll call: Mr. Jason Yes, Mr. Snider Yes, Ms. Butler Yes, Ms. Miller Yes, Mr. Alley Yes, Ms. Nevin Yes.

Date

Signed