

St. Lawrence County Public Transit Task Force

Minutes for Thursday October 15, 2020

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:01 PM by Frank Doldo with attendees: Carolyn White, Howie Gantner, Tim Welpé, Michele Catlin, Samantha Stone, Paige Brothers, Kate Englert, Pat Hand, Rena Ryan and Sue Rose. Frank had arranged for uberconference.com for other members not in attendance. They included the some of the following: Ray Babowicz, Priscilla Leggette, Matilda Larson, Mary Jo Terrance, Christine Richardson, Karen Bage, Klaus Proemmn, Felicia Dumas, Jodi Regan, MJ Terrance, Brandi Smith and Monty, and Jerome James.

Previous Month Minutes:

Amendments were made and accepted. Motion made by Rena Ryan and seconded by Tim Welpé.

Old Business:

Massena's new public transit numbers for the months of August had 83 and September had 99. Frank stated that these numbers were very similar to when Ogdensburg's intra shuttle had started. They are now about 300 passengers per month. The Akwesasne Casino and the Senior Center opened back up in September and hoping that they will get more ridership for these stops.

SUNY Potsdam ridership numbers were: August 169 and September 1911.

Clarkson ridership numbers were: August 263 and September 477.

SUNY Canton ridership numbers were: August 121 and September 769.

Matilda spoke on the ridership being back to about 75% pre-Covid. At one point, during the Covid the ridership was about 15%. Masks are available for riders if they forget them.

It was announced that the new routes that were scheduled to start have been pushed back because of the budget. Not sure at this time when they will start at this time.

New Business:

The St. Lawrence County Coordinated Plan handout was reviewed. Comments and Strategy timelines were discussed by Matilda. She also stated that they are reaching out for collaboration in connecting St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis and other counties.

Request for proposal (RFP) and request for statements of interest (RFI) they were drafted and published. The deadline had closed and had one proposal each for each activity. VTC has applied for mobility management and The ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence submitted for bus operations. The county will keep both organizations on for those contracts.

New advertisers have sign on: SLC Public Health with the Seaway Valley Prevention and Community Services. Frank is working with them doing two campaigns. One will be to reduce the stigma of substance abuse disorder and the other will be about Narcan and Narcan training. To help get more people involved the programs. We welcome that partnership on board and appreciate their support. We still have a few buses that are available for advertising. Contact Frank to discuss details.

Comments and Concerns:

There were some questions about the college buses still running after the Thanksgiving break when colleges will be doing on-line classes. Matilda stated that the colleges sign a ten month contract. So any students living off campus or the public can still ride those buses.

Meeting Adjourned – 1:44 PM