

St. Lawrence County Public Transit Task Force

Minutes for Thursday September 17, 2020

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM by Frank Doldo with attendees: Rick Pirie, Lori Elliott, Brandi Smith, Cindy Ackerman, Carolyn White, Priscilla Leggette, Ron McDougall, Rena Ryan. Frank had arranged for uberconference.com for other members not in attendance. They included the some of the following: Ray Babowicz, Michele Catlin, Matilda Larson, Mary Jo Terrance, Alexa Goolden, Samantha Stone, Christine Richardson, Karen Bage, Klaus Proemmn, Felicia Dumas, Jodi Regan, MJ Terrance and Sue Rose.

Previous Month Minutes: Meeting minutes were approved for February, April and May.

Old Business:

Matilda Larson spoke about the transit ridership having an 85% decline but it is back up to 2/3 of the pre-covid numbers since reopening the college runs.

The CARES Act is a Federal to State to County program that has helped businesses with some funding during the months of the covid shutdown.

The transit buses are being sanitized daily and signage is up for wearing masks. A bilingual sign is being done for the Amish.

New Business:

Massena has started the new transit bus run (Route 70) doing a two hour loop. A soft opening was started on August 3, 2020. The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and the Akwesasne Senior Center have since re-opened. A total of 83 riders were on for the month of August. Northern Credit Union were the gracious sponsors for those fares. Northern Credit Union and the Drug Free Coalition also did advertising on the bus.

Starting on October 19, 2020 two transit runs will start. In an effort to cut down on the two hour loop for the Massena Route 70 we will be starting a Route 70B. It will start one hour behind Route 70 so passengers would have some better options time wise. Another transit run will be Route 71 that will leave Massena Price Chopper traveling to Canton and Potsdam before returning to Massena on a continuous loop starting at 9:35 AM and will end at 5:35 PM.

Comments and Concerns:

Priscilla Leggette from SUNY Canton asked about another possible bus stop if the Miller Student Center parking lot is congested. Frank stated that he would look into going to French Hall parking lot.

Karen Bage stated that three bus shelters will delivered soon. Two of them are going to Massena locations of the Massena Housing Authority and the Community Center. The third one is scheduled to go to Potsdam in the parking lot across from the Roxy Theater. She said that they are supposed to have solar panels that will keep them lit up for safety and the villages will be responsible for the upkeep on them. The total cost of those units was approximately \$ 24,000.

Frank asked Ron McDougall the mayor of Gouverneur if they could work together to get the parking area lines done at the Church Street location. Frank was hoping in a few years to get a transit line going between Jefferson County and St. Lawrence County where they would be transferring in Gouverneur.

Meeting Adjourned – 2:00 PM