

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 13, 2009

PRESENT: Michael Cormier, Chair
Terry Churney
Philip Cox
Gunther Seyffarth
William Chaffey
Stephen Scott
Councillor Brad Johns

ABSENT: John Merrick, Vice-Chair (regrets)
Ian MacLaine (regrets)

STAFF: Mr. David Reage,
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Michael Cormier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Boardroom #1, 1st Floor Sackville Planning Office, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 8, 2009

Revision: Item 6.3.1, Page 5, change "*declined*" to "*was unavailable*"

MOVED BY Mr. Bill Chaffey, seconded by Mr. Gunther Seyffarth that the minutes of April 8, 2009, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Deletion: Item 7.1 Bedford Visioning

Mr. Phil Cox entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

MOVED BY Mr. Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Mr. Terry Churney that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1.1 Letter to Wal-Mart re: Bus Shelter

- A copy of the letters sent to Wal-Mart and the responses received were before the Committee.

Mr. David Reage advised that there were only ten (10) shelters per year allocated in the budget and were based on a priority list. He noted that the location of the shelters was chosen by Metro Transit based on priority. Those shelters with advertising are located in areas chosen by the Contractor, CBS Outdoor, as Metro Transit sells advertising space to them and the Contractor usually places the shelters in high traffic areas.

Councillor Johns requested that at the next meeting, staff advise whether or not there would be an opportunity for Metro Transit to 50% cost share with Wal-Mart in regard to a bus shelter and whether or not the cost share option would influence the placement on the priority list.

4.1.2 List of Reports Requested by North West Transit Advisory Committee

- A copy of the Information Report on Route 86 was before the Committee for information purposes.

Staff advised that this was the only outstanding report. No further action required.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Bedford Visioning

This item was deleted during the approval of the agenda.

7.2 Route 87 Through Bedford

Mr. David Reage advised that a Consultant was in the process of preparing a Five-year operating plan for Metro Transit. He noted that Metro Transit was on the tipping point between being a medium-sized transit system to a large-medium transit system and the study may suggest a significant re-alignment. Public Open house meetings will be held on June 16, 17 and 18th. Notices will be placed in the newspaper. The June 16th meeting will be held at Acadia School from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The final Operating Report will go to Regional Council in September 2009.

In response to Mr. Cormier, Mr. Reage noted that there were no plans to have the Consultant attend a North West Transit Advisory Committee meeting as the Consultant's schedule would be very tight and most likely not offer an opportunity for the Committee to meet with him prior to or following the public meetings in June. Further, it may be unfair to have the views of a specific area of HRM presented to the Consultant when other areas of HRM would not have that opportunity.

7.3 Realign Routes for Dartmouth Crossing / Direct Connection from Sackville to Dartmouth Crossing

Mr. Bill Chaffey noted that three years ago the Committee had been advised that Route 87 would be routed through Bedford and inquired if that would be happening.

Mr. David Reage responded that there was no plan for that to occur in the near future as there was not enough running time in the schedule and it would require adding a bus. He further noted that realignment of this route to service Bedford would be unlikely to occur

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given that there were crowding issues and new developments to be accommodated, however; all routes would be reviewed as part of the previously mentioned Five-year Operation Plan.

Councillor Johns noted that with the new ice surface going to the Bedford area more transit service will be required. He advised that there is congestion at the Sunnyside area of Bedford that will become worse if a ferry were to operate from Mill Cove. He emphasized the need for more transit servicing the Bedford area.

In response to Councillor Johns' request for the Consultant to meet with the only Transit Advisory Committee for HRM, Mr. Reage advised that the Committee's concern in regard to the Route 87 has been provided to the Consultant along with data retrieved from HANSEN and Metro Transit staff on a variety of issues.

Members of the Committee questioned whether there was any point in the North West Transit Advisory Committee continuing to meet if they were not to be provided an opportunity to "advise" or to be "consulted" on transit issues.

Councillor Johns offered to speak with Ms. Patricia Soanes, General Manager of Metro Transit and invite her to attend the June 10th meeting of the North West Transit Advisory Committee as an opportunity for her to present her vision for Metro Transit.

8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The Committee agreed to meet at the Burnside Transit Centre in Dartmouth for the June 10th meeting to be followed by a tour of the Facility/Transit Garage.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant