
**NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

January 13, 2010

PRESENT: Mr. Michael Cormier, Chair
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns
Mr. John Merrick, Vice Chair
Mr. William Chaffey
Mr. Terry Churney
Councillor Harvey
Councillor Outhit
Mr. Stephen James Scott
Mr. Phillip Cox

REGRETS: Mr. Ian MacLaine
Mr. Gunther Seyffarth

STAFF: Ms. Paulette Campbell, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. CALL TO ORDER 3
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - October 14, 2009 3
- 3. FUTURE OF THE NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 3
- 4. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE 4
- 5. ADJOURNMENT 4

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Planning Boardroom, 1st Floor, Sackville Planning Office.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 14, 2009.

MOVED by John Merrick Seconded by Terry Churney that the minutes of October 14, 2009 as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. FUTURE OF THE NORTH WEST TRANSIT COMMITTEE

The future of the North West Transit Advisory Committee was discussed and the following comments and concerns were made:

Deputy Mayor Johns made the suggesting that disbanding of the North West Transit Advisory Committee and waiting to see what happens with a Regional Board is an option. He then when on to say that the North West Community Council will be expanding to add two more Councillors, Barry Dalrymple and Peter Lund.

The Committee also made the following comments:

- Hoping with the extra Councillors will give them more public feedback to bring back to Metro Transit;
- Chebucto Community Council has put forth a motion that they get a Transit Advisory Committee, we now have another community with its own Committee, as of right now we are the only Transit Advisory Committee in Halifax Regional Municipality;
- Now is not a good time to disband since there are talks about new types of transportation being discussed ie. hovercraft, commuter train;
- Apprehension that if this Committee disbands the new Regional Committee would not focus on transit as much as needed but their efforts would be put towards bikeways/walkways;
- Since our inception we have made many changes to the Transit Service including but not limited to changing the two zone transit fare, route 66 was the only way to get to Dartmouth, inception of route 82 and there was not a Sackville terminal, etc. we didn't make all of these happen but we did discuss them, when the grant was first applied for we did do a support letter for the link funding;
- There has been talk about a Regional Committee for a while but we need people from all over HRM, people who take the bus who understand the frustrations of the

transit users. This is the role of the Committee, we comment on things that the public would like to see Metro Transit do to improve the service; we also understand they can not be fixed overnight;

- We clearly understand that the Committee brings issues back to Metro Transit to improve service;

Mr. Cox suggested that the Committee needs to be a little more proactive with respect to Transit and with more consultation from the Committee with relation to what the public wants.

The following comments were made with respect to Mr. Cox's suggestion:

- There are changes coming to Transit, they will soon be following the same procedure as fire and police;
- We can see a lot of merit in a Regional Committee however, they need a more focussed local prospective in there as well;
- We would be interested in participating on a Strategic Transit Planning Group; and
- Next meeting is to be February 10, 2010 location to be determined.

North West Transit Advisory Committee has agreed to keep things status quo with monthly meetings being verified by Mr. Michael Cormier.

MOTION MOVED BY MR. MICHAEL CORMIER AND SECONDED BY MR. TERRY CHURNEY - MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. STATUS UPDATES - NONE

5. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

6. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE - February 10, 2010

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.