

Exeter Local Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

05/03/2011, Attending; Ms. Julie Gilman, Selectboard Rep., Ms. Sylvia von Aulock, Exeter Town Planner, Mr. Scott Bogle, Rockingham Planning Commission, Mr. Don Woodward, Committee Chairperson.

Meeting began at 4:15p.m. in Wheelwright Room at Town Offices.

As none of representatives from transportation service providers were able to attend the meeting, a first quarter of 2011 report from the L.O.F. (local option fee) account & the impact of rising fuel costs will be discussed at a future meeting.

Sylvia has begun to tabulate the first transportation surveys. It was noted that 50% of those responding would be willing to pay \$1.00 per ride & another 25% would be willing to pay \$2.00. The age distribution count shows adults & seniors would be accompanying their children or grandchildren.

Sylvia had created a draft of a circular route map traveling 12.6 miles within town. Scott noted this mileage, based on D.o.T. transit standards, would take about 1 hour to complete. This is more efficient for a town of Exeter's size than a hub & spoke route, saving both time and fuel.

Don met with Northern Bus sales in Hudson, N.H. & found that by leasing a previously owned vehicle there would be cost savings over a new vehicle lease. New vehicles depreciate as soon as they leave the dealership but a used vehicle's value based on actual mileage. This is true with buses just as it is with personal automobiles.

Scott proposed another option & that would be the use of volunteer drivers. The Alliance for Community Transportation, the seacoast area's regional transportation coordination council, is utilizing a Coastbus vehicle and volunteer drivers trained by Coastbus. Community Rides north bus service began this April to four towns in Stafford County.

The latest information Scott has regarding the East West bus route that will be starting in October is that the Exeter-Stop would be a call-in "whistle stop", demand response type of service if, for instance, someone wanted a ride to Manchester Airport, Downtown Manchester or the Epping Park & Ride lot.

Funding & adjustments to charge of committee, merger with another committee or focus on the transportation chapter of the Town's Master plan.

Merger with other committees discussed, Don has availability issues from his day-job. An item from the master plan that was discussed was to develop a funding strategy for short & long term maintenance of roads, sidewalks, bicycle paths & trails. Long-term metered parking in the Lincoln Street/Station area for non-residents was discussed as a way of funding transportation improvements to that specific area of town. The Train Station Committee, The West-X committee and residents would all have input to move forward with some of the proposals from the PlanNH charrette.

Scott & Don to check local RR stations for Fees, Sylvia to contact John Savage at Northern bus. Next Meeting May31st, Meeting adjourned at 5:15p.m.

As recorded, Don W 05/05/2011