



## MINUTES

### Greater Waterbury Transit District (GWTD)

10:00am, September 20, 2023

**Directors in Attendance:** Betty Bajek, Debbie Bournival, Lisa Carew, Karen Harvey, Mira Levasseur, Aleta Looker, Mary Morrone, Stefanie Theroux, and Maria Vaccarelli

**Others Attending:** Joanna Rogalski (NVCOG), Trish Bauer (NVCOG), Patricia Bruder (NVCOG), Richard Nakatsuka (CTDOT), John Wardzala (Kennedy Collective)

#### 1. Commencement of Meeting

- The meeting was called at 10:05 a.m. by Betty Bajek.
- No Public Comment
- Approval of minutes from June 14, 2023 meeting.

*Motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2023, meeting.*

On a motion by Lisa Carew; Seconded by Karen Harvey, it was unanimously:

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of June 14, 2023.

#### 2. GWTD Administrative Items

- Ms. Rogalski presented the Financial Update. No discussion.
- Ms. Rogalski reviewed the Ridership Update. Ms. Harvey asked why there is a non-ADA category and expressed that this category is on the rise. After discussion it was determined that the tracking of these categories has to do with the funding streams. Maria Vaccarelli from NET explained that for Non-ADA, the State contributes half, and the towns contribute half. Trish Bauer explained that GWTD pays NET to run Dial-a-Ride and that ADA funding does not come from GWTD. Ms. Rogalski believes that ADA is also being tracked and she will reach out to the members tomorrow with the answer to that. Ms. Vaccarelli sends most of the reports to NVCOG and perhaps they can distribute them to this group.

#### 3. Northeast Transportation Update

- Ms. Vaccarelli reported that Northeast has acquired 14 new vans in the last two weeks. They are out on the road now. Ms. Harvey noted that the new vans are wonderful.

#### 4. Open Discussion

- Chairwoman Bajek noted that it's difficult for the towns to get bus drivers and asked that the members pass along any info that may help the situation.
- Ms. Rogalski noted that October 2-8 will be National Week Without Driving Challenge through CT Rides. This is an exercise for people to understand how those that don't have personal transportation may have to function – what their life is like if they don't have a car.
- John Wardzala, Director of Mobility Services at The Kennedy Collective (TKC) introduced himself to the Committee. He noted that TKC conducts free travel training, funded by CTDOT and CT Transit. They provide mobility management and ADA services. TKC will be tabling at the Veterans Stand Down this Friday at the Bridgeport, Rocky Hill, Danbury and Norwich locations. They are contacting transit districts to offer to distribute their information, including seeking drivers. Mr. Wardzala provided his email address to the Committee so they can forward any information they'd like distributed at these events. Chairwoman Bajek asked that NVCOG forward brochures that Kevin created for GWTD to Mr. Wardzala.

(CONT.)

- Ms. Harvey raised concerns regarding ADA transportation, particularly for senior citizens. She noted safety issues including extended waiting for pickup, broken seatbelts, and debris on the floors of the vans. Mira Levasseur explained that the Waterbury Senior Center doesn't manage the Senior shuttle. The City of Waterbury went out to bid and the new provider, Ambassador, will start on October 1st. The person to contact regarding the Waterbury senior shuttle is Nancy at 203-346-3810 – ext. 7274. Ms. Harvey recommended some kind of spot check for safety for all providers of this service.
- Chairwoman Bajek thanked outgoing member Lisa Carew for her service to the Committee. Ms. Carew thanked her fellow Committee members for the honor and privilege of serving with them.

**5. Next Meeting Date**

- Next meeting date is on December 13, 2023.

**6. Adjournment**

- At 10:35 AM, on a motion by Lisa Carew, seconded by Mary Morrone, it was unanimously:  
**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Bruder, Executive Administrative Clerk  
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments