



DRAFT MINUTES

Greater Waterbury Transit District Board Meeting
Virtual Video Conference Meeting - September 11, 2024 at 10:00 am

Commencement of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Betty Bajek, Chair. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll called.

Attending: Betty Bajek, Prospect; Patricia Bruder, NVCOG; Desira Blanchard, NVCOG; Jo Ann Cappelletti, Middlebury; Richard Donovan, NVCOG; Jane Dunbar, CT DOT; Karen Harvey, Waterbury; Aleta Looker, Cheshire; Jan Mizeski, Naugatuck; Jorge Rosario, Maria Vaccarelli, Northeast Transportation.

There was no Public Comment.

Approval of Minutes

Karen Harvey MOVED to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting; SECONDED by Jan Mizeski. The motion was carried with Ms. Bajek and Mr. Mizeski abstaining.

Election of Officers

CHAIR: Aleta Looker nominated Betty Bajek for the position of Chair of the Greater Waterbury Transit District; the nomination was SECONDED by Jan Mizeski.

No other nominations were made; no discussion was had. A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

VICE-CHAIR: Betty Bajek nominated Mary Morrone for the position of Vice-Chair of the Greater Waterbury Transit District; the nomination was SECONDED by Aleta Looker.

No other nominations were made; no discussion was had. A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER: Betty Bajek nominated Debbie Bournival for the position of Treasurer of the Greater Waterbury Transit District; the nomination was SECONDED by Jan Mizeski.

No other nominations were made.

Discussion: Karen Harvey asked for Ms. Bournival's background. Betty Bajek explained that Ms. Bournival is currently the GWTD Treasurer, and she serves as the Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman in Thomaston.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

SECRETARY: Betty Bajek nominated Karen Harvey for the position of Secretary of the Greater Waterbury Transit District. Ms. Harvey declined the nomination.

Betty Bajek then nominated Aleta Looker for the position of Secretary of the Greater Waterbury Transit District; the nomination was SECONDED by Karen Harvey.

No other nominations were made; no discussion was had. A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

GWTD Administrative Items

a. Financial Update

Richard Donovan reported, Joanna has been working on the matching grant program from ConnDOT on behalf of the Transit District and is making progress on having that completed and submitted. We've been working very closely with the ConnDOT Transit Unit to make sure it is addressed for this year as well as the end of the last fiscal year.

Revenues are where we anticipate with all revenues received except for the Municipal Grant Program which we're finalizing with ConnDOT. Expenses remain in line where expected and relatively low.

b. Ridership Update

Dial-a-Ride ridership is up for July and August. Maria Vaccarelli noted that there were five Saturdays in August which could have been the cause of the uptick in ridership.

Non-ADA ridership has seen a slight drop-off in the month of August but on track with last year in the month of July.

Northeast Transportation Update

Maria reported that NET has received its first electric vehicle, a van for paratransit. She will report on its progress at the next meeting.

August 18th Flood Response

Richard Donovan provided an update on the progress made since the devastating flooding that occurred in our region on August 18th. He explained that ConnDOT has been doing an incredible job repairing the state roads, as have the towns with the restoration of the local roads. NVCOG has been helping to document the conditions so they can prepare their claims through the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). We are also working with DEEP not only to repair what was there, but what resilience measures could be made going forward.

In response to questions, Mr. Donovan explained the rail line repair will take longer, but ConnDOT has put together a strong response to it along with Metro North to backfill the washouts and lay in new track and floor. We don't know if ConnDOT has a target date they're working for as to the repair of the rail lines. They will aim to build it back to be more resilient than it was, a worthwhile time investment.

For any personal property issues, there is a guide on the NVCOG website that will hopefully be of value.

DEMHS has requested approximately \$300 million in damages from FEMA and is awaiting a response to that request.

Mr. Mizeski commended CT DOT for repairing the bridges so quickly. Jane Dunbar thanked Mr. Mizeski and noted that she will continue providing updates as she receives them.

Open Discussion

Ms. Bajek reported that a thank you card was received from Dr. Yvonne Smith-Isaacs for the Board's expression of sympathy.

[Aleta Looker left the meeting at approximately 10:25 am]

She also reported she will be chairing a three-person subcommittee to update the GWTD bylaws. NVCOG will support us with the review. Aleta Looker and Karen Harvey volunteered to participate on this subcommittee, which will meet in October.

Adjournment

At approximately 10:35 am, Aleta Looker MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Karen Harvey. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held December 11, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Brudel
Executive Administrative Clerk