

Access-A-Bus Website Update

January 2006 to February 2006

January 25, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Gary Russell, Chairperson.

Regrets were received from Donald Mullins and Tanya Carroll.

Guests present were Sandra Wood, Naomi Blanchard, (members of the Kings County Alternative Transportation Services) and Paul McDaniel, General Manager, Metro Transit.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

The order of business was approved with the following additions:

White Cane Week and Companions Travelling With Clients.

The resignation of Tanya Carroll was accepted

A review of AAB pick up/drop off locations is being investigated by Larry Hilton. Larry will report back on this at the next meeting.

D439 Update — To date there is no new information on this item. Paul McDaniel and Larry Hilton will try to connect with Dave White of the URB (Utility Review Board) to find out how this item is progressing.

Painted Bus Stop Areas and Signs — The pavement where AAB stops to pickup or drop off clients will not be painted blue on designated AAB stops in HRM.(Painted sections are slippery when icy.)

The Link Service from Lower Sackville is ready to go into operation on February 21st.

Use of walkers on AAB ramps — Policy #04269 has been posted on all ALF Buses.

To date there are no reported incidents of clients with walkers being refused the use of a ramp? A discussion followed on how operators should help or not help wheelchair users.

There are four new AAB operators (one came from extra budgeting, two are replacements, and one is a regular new hire.) To date, there are now 29 operators for Access-A-Bus.

The 2005 update (January to December) has been submitted to be posted to the website.

A discussion took place on using the Internet to book trips etc, but at this time the existing equipment is not geared to handle this.

The date for the Annual General Meeting is set for Wednesday May 24th at the Dartmouth North Community Center from 7 to 9 PM.

A thank you to Metro Transit was extended by the Chairperson for the Christmas Party and Santa Claus was thanked for his yearly visit.

It was mentioned that February 6th to 11th was White Cane Week.

Companions Travelling with Clients — More than one companion is permitted to travel with a client IF THERE IS ROOM BOTH WAYS. This will be explored in the future for special such as Christmas Parties etc.

The changes to the Terms Of Reference were deferred until the next meeting.

A letter was received from HRM Traffic Engineering Department explaining why it is not possible to paint designated AAN streets blue on HRM property. A suggestion was made that signs might be able to be erected.

A sympathy card was sent to Nancy Josey, a past Chairperson of ATAC.

There was no report from the No Show/Late Cancellation Committee.

A brief report was submitted from the Low Floor Bus Committee.

It was reported that the changes to the Late Cancellation Policy had been made and that it was noticed that there was quite a difference in the no shows and late cancellations.

There have been no complaints received from clients using the ALF Buses.

The PR Committee gave a brief report on activities planned for the 25th Anniversary of AAB in August of this year. More information will be presented at the next meeting.

A brief period of information was presented from the representatives of the King's County Alternative Transportation Services Society.

Their being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be February 22nd.

February 22, 2006

The meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairperson Lynn DeMont.

Regrets were received from Gary Russell, Chairperson and Councilor Gary Meade.

The minutes of the January 25th meeting were approved.

The order of business was approved with the following additions:

Transit Section Update of Regional Plan

Use of non-accessible Low Floor Buses by AAB users.

Tanya Carroll's Resignation.

There is a plan to develop an Access-A-Bus website that is a separate link off the HRM site so that clients can receive up to date info. This site will start after the May meeting with the input from the new Committee.

It was pointed out that more than one companion could accompany a client IF THE SPACE WAS AVAILABLE BOTH WAYS.

The Link service went into operation on February 21st.

Copies of the website update for January to December were distributed to the committee members.

The date for the Annual General Meeting was confirmed as May24th at the Dartmouth North Community Centre at 7 pm.

It was reported that it was hoped that there would be 40 door prizes for the AGM.

The Regional Transit Plan was discussed and it was noticed that if Metro Transit expanded farther out and into rural areas, service of Access-A-Bus would be increased where possible or some other means of service would be used. Larry will continue to monitor this.

It was also pointed out that if an AAB client used a non ALF Bus, that this would not interfere with his/her service on AAB.

With Tanya Carroll's resignation from the Committee, it was noted by the Chairperson that there would be another two year term to be filled at the election in May at the Annual General Meeting.. Due to the shortness of the time left, it was decided that her position would not be filled until the election of the new committee.

The Terms of Reference, once again was deferred until the return of the Chairperson Gary Russell.

The pick up and drop off locations are still in the process of being re-assessed. Larry Hilton will continue with this project.

The policy on driver assistance was given to all operators of AAB.

Larry will bring a copy of Policy #04269 to the March meeting.

Items Received: Tanya Carroll's resignation.

Items Out: Get well card to Gary Russell.

Reports

The No Show/Late Cancellation Committee Report was deferred until the March meeting due to the absence of the Chairperson.

Low Floor Bus Committee — No report was given. It was mentioned by Larry Hilton that the Route #60 going to Eastern Passage and the Dartmouth General Hospital would probably be the next Low Floor Bus Route.

Transit Services Report — Eight to ten people are waiting for subscription service. In future letters of refusal of service and letters requesting specific areas for new service will be included in this report.

PR Report deferred until the March 22nd Meeting.

At the end of the meeting it was announced that Todd Hacquoil, previous Chairperson had accepted the award for Volunteer Recognition from the Mayor's Office of HRM.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be March 22nd.