

January 2007

The Chairperson Gary Russell called the January 24th, 2007 meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

The following committee members were present: Gary Russell, Chairperson, Lynn DeMont, Vice-Chairperson, Marcia Guy, Secretary, Catherine Macintosh, Gwen MacLachlan, Todd Hacquoil, Murray Holman, Shauna MacEachern, Cathy Cranidge, Peggy Brown, Councillor Gary Meade and Larry Hilton, Supervisor Access-A-Bus.. Regrets were received from Lynn Eyland and Bill Moffatt.

The minutes of the October 25th and November 22nd meeting were approved.

Order of Business

1. Member At Large -Todd Hacquoil was elected the new Member at Large (January to June).
2. New Access-A-Bus Website - Todd and Gary R. had a successful meeting with Larry Hilton, Lori Patterson and Tiffany Chase. The link buses, Ferry and Access-A-Buses will have advertising on them. The Low Floor buses will also have information available on them.
3. Clarification of Complaints - Complaints phoned into 490-4000 will no longer be followed up by a letter. They will now be followed up by a phone call. Larry Hilton has a meeting scheduled with staff to set the policy.
4. Thank You to Santa Claus- Gary R. thanked Councillor Meade for being Santa Claus at the Christmas Party; previously Robert VonSchroder played Santa Claus. Mrs VonSchroder was invited to the Christmas Party and acted as Santa's helper.
5. New Low Floor Bus Routes for 2007 - There will be 7 new Low Floor Bus Routes added to the system this year. There will be a new Bridge Terminal built in Dartmouth, a new Go Time System and there are planning to have a GPS System installed for the Access-A-Buses. The D435 modifications are now under review by Metro Transit staff and there will be a driver-training follow-up.
6. Eligibility Requirements - Proposed suggestions have been received from the committee for changes in eligibility requirements. Larry Hilton has experts and legal people to begin this process.
7. Grandfather Clause - Todd brought up some issues about the Grandfather Clause and it was suggested that it be eliminated. If the Grandfather Clause is being used for some people it was felt that it should be available for all. That is not what the present system allows. Larry Hilton will follow this up.
8. Thanks To Metro Transit For Christmas Party - A round of thanks was given to Larry Hilton & Metro Transit by Gary R and the committee members. It was suggested by all

present that the Steak & Stein be used for the 2007 Christmas Party because of the atmosphere and the special services that were provided.

9. Terms of Reference - Gary R. and Todd are working on the Terms of Reference and they will be available for the May Annual General Meeting.

10. Old Access-A-Bus Files- There are still a few boxes of files that have to be sorted and destroyed. Gary R. Lynn and Todd will be working on this.

11. Eight Day Booking Window - Larry will speak to Paul McDaniel about an 8-day booking window instead of the current 14-day one. Larry is also looking into adding some new staff and hopefully this will happen sometime this year.

12. NS Leo Meeting at CNIB- Transportation League For Equal Opportunity - Gary R. Lynn, Todd, Peggy and Larry Hilton will attend this meeting.

13. Drop Off And Pick Up Points At Shopping Centres - Gary R. brought up the point that there are various drop off points at some shopping centres and only one at others. Larry will investigate this. It was also pointed out that some shopping malls are specific as to where the Access-A-Bus may stop.

14. Booking Facilities For AGM - The next AGM will be on Wednesday, May 23rd at the Dartmouth North Community Centre. Larry Hilton will book the facilities.

15. Jim Leadon (ATU) - It was established that Jim Leadon will attend the meetings 3 or 4 times a year. He will attend the meeting on Feb 21st.

16. September to December 2006 updates will be posted on the HRM Metro Transit website shortly.

17. Holders On Access-A-Bus - Holders for Access-A-Bus Information are being installed on each bus.

18. Driver Attitudes - Todd brought up the fact that drivers are discussing their personal problems and work issues with passengers. Passengers have stressed that they do not want to hear this. Larry is aware of this and is looking into it.

19. New Mailing List - A new list of committee members will be coming out with the next minutes.

20. New Motorized Chairs with Posts - Harding Medical has ordered and is selling new motorized chairs with posts on the front of them and there is no place on the front of the chairs to tie them down properly.

21. Mobility Cup 2007 - Councilor Meade handed out information about the Mobility Cup 2007. This event will take place from August 26th to September 1st at the

Dartmouth Yacht Club and will be hosted by Sail Able Association of Nova Scotia. This event will be the largest disable sailing regatta in the history of the Atlantic Provinces. More information is forthcoming.

22. DIAL & ATAC Workshops- this will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Business Arising from the minutes and the Deferred Business were discussed in the above topics.

A thank you card was received from Mrs. Robert Von Schroder for the Christmas Party.

Committee Reports

Low Floor Bus Sub-Committee - The next meeting of this committee will be led on February 19.

No Show Late Cancellation Sub-Committee - Gary R. reported that there will be several warning letters sent out for violations to the system.

Public Relations Sub-Committee- The next meeting will be held on February 21st.

Transit Services Statistical Report- Larry handed out the bi-monthly statistics to the committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

The next meeting will be February 28th, February 2007.

February 2007

Gary Russell, Chairperson at, called the February 28th meeting to order.

Committee members present were as follows: Gary Russell, Chairperson, Lynn DeMont, Vice Chairperson, Marcia Guy, Secretary, Catherine Macintosh, Todd Hacquoil, Murray Holman, Cathy Cranidge, Lynn Eyland, Councilor Gary Meade & Larry Hilton, Supervisor Access-A-Bus.

Regrets were received from Peggy Brown, Gwen MacLachlan, Shauna MacEachern and Bill Moffatt Jim Leadon was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments.

The minutes of the January 24th meeting were approved.

Order Of Business

1. The Terms Of Reference - have been completed
2. Inspection of Client Residences - New clients will have their residences inspected and their scooters checked as some are not meeting AAB standards.
3. HRM Website - September to November HRM website info has been updated.
4. Wheelchair/Scooter Ties - Some of the current Scooters and new larger wheelchairs do not have the proper attachments to tie wheelchairs and scooters down on the bus. Larry is looking into this.
5. Wait List - Deferred until March Meeting.
6. Wheelchair/Scooter Size - Scooters are currently being sold to clients by Harding Medical that do not meet AAB standards and therefore cannot be used on AAB. The size of the Wheelchair or Scooter is the determining factor. The size of a client's scooter could affect their use on AAB.
7. Jim Leadon- Jim Leadon was unable to attend the meeting due to work requirements.
8. Elections Officer- Lynn DeMont was appointed elections officer with Todd Hacquoil and Murray Holman to assist along with Larry Hilton.
9. Meeting Time Change - The AAB Meeting times have been changed from 1 to 3 PM instead of 2 to 4 PM.
10. Attendance At Meetings - This item was discussed and it was pointed out that a Committee member could not miss more than 3 meetings.

Business Arising From The Minutes and Deferred Business

The following items were deferred until the March meeting, as Larry Hilton had to leave the meeting early.

1. Clarification of Complaints Regarding 490-4000
2. D435
3. Grandfather Clause
4. 8 Day Booking Window
5. Drop Off Points At Shopping Malls
6. DIAL & ATAC Workshops
7. Driver Attitudes
8. Clarification Of Specialists Bookings
9. Communications Problems

Committee Reports -

Low Floor Bus Sub-Committee - Todd reported on the meeting that the committee held and was waiting for further information from Metro Transit on the Committee's proposals.

Late Cancellation No Show Sub-Committee - no Report at present time. Warning letters pending being sent out to clients.

Public relations Sub-Committee - the next AAB BBQ will be led in August 2008.

Transit Statistical Reports - As these reports are bi-monthly will be presented in April.

There was no correspondence in or out.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 PM

Next meeting will be on March 28th at 1pm. HRM Finance Dept.