

September 2006

Lynn DeMont called the September 27th Meeting to order.

Regrets were received from Gary Russell, Lynn Eyland and guest Jim Leadon.

The minutes of the August 23rd meeting were approved.

The order of business was approved with the following additions:

12.4 White Cane Week

12.5 CNIB Passes AAB Bus Fares

12.6 AAB Stop at Professional Centre, Spring Garden Road

12.7 Scooter Transferring

Federal Funding

Rolling Stones Concert

Larry reported that AAB and the Medical Staff of HRM are working on the policy of what a specialist is for booking in advance for appointments. Larry will report back to the committee when the information policy is finalized.

The problem that residents of Sunrise Manor were having with AAB Bookings has been resolved.

Lori Patterson was clarifying incorrect information that was submitted to Teamwork Co-Operative in their annual report by Jen Powley.

There was no correspondence in. A sympathy card was sent to Lynn Eyland.

Reports-

No Show/Late Cancellation Committee; There are no new appeals but 2 are still outstanding

Public Relations: There was no report from the Public Relations Committee, as they had not met since the BBQ in August.

AAB Website: Todd Hacquoil reported that he was waiting to meet with Metro Transit Management to go over the proposed changes to the Metro Transit Website that were recommended by the ATAC Committee.

Low Floor Bus Committee: Todd reported that he was waiting to meet with Metro Transit Management regarding proposed Low Floor Routes and what was planned for ALF in the New Year. Todd also inquired about FRED (Free Rides Everywhere Downtown) and also that ALF was using larger buses.

Statistical Report Transit Services: Larry circulated the report and it was noted that the waiting list is increasing. He also reported that the business community demands for

transportation were increasing for employment requirements in the HRM area for employees who required the use of Access-A-Bus.

**Added Items:**

**New Facility Information:** Larry passed along the problems that scheduling was having due to computer problems related to the move into new facilities. A newer high speed Internet connection will be installed.

**AAB Website Update:** June to August has been added.

**Revisions to AAB Website:** This item was discussed during the Sub-Committee update.

**White Cane Week:** An Access-A-Bus presentation to CNIB was requested during White Cane Week. Peggy Brown is to provide the date.

**CNIB Bus Passes AAB Bus Fares:** The CNIB passes are not to be used on Access-A-Bus but are only for the conventional buses. It was stated by Larry that these passes have never been allowed to be used on Access-A-Bus.

**AAB Bus Stop at Professional Centre:** It was pointed out that a platform was required at the Professional Centre on Spring Garden Road for the AAB's. Larry will follow this up.

At this time due to a previous commitment Harry Hilton had to leave the meeting.

**Scooter Transferring:** Todd brought up the concern of clients who had to transfer to a seat from their scooter. This item was deferred till the next meeting when Larry would be present.

**Federal Funding:** Todd asked Councillor Meade about the Federal Funding that were talked about for transit. He reported that it was an election promise by the Liberals but with their defeat it did not materialize. Todd also asked about the Federal Fuel Tax money that was promised to the municipality. Councillor Meade reported that it was being used for upgrading roads and infrastructure in the HRM area.

**Rolling Stones Concert:** Todd asked how the Concert Shuttle Bus Service affected the Metro Transit overall budget. Councillor Meade reported that 35,000 people used the buses. Todd suggested that at future concert more low floor buses could be used. This item was deferred till Larry returned to the next meeting,

**AAB Registration For Dialysis:** Marcia requested that this item be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The next meeting would be on October 25th at Metro Transit so that members could view the new facilities. The meeting would be at 1:00 p.m.

October 2006

Chairperson Gary Russell called the October 25th, 2006 meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

A tour of the new facilities had taken place before the meeting.

Regrets were received from Lynn DeMont.

The minutes of Sept.27th were approved.

Larry Hilton reported that the bus stop pad at the Professional Centre on Spring Garden Road was being looked after.

Jim Leadon (ATU) Shop Steward was present at the meeting. He mentioned that AAB should consider advertising to the public to make them aware of Access-A-Bus. He also pointed out that some of the drivers were telling him that the 490-4000 number was not accepting Access-A-Bus complaints. Larry Hilton will look into this.

He also mentioned Access-A-Bus advertising should be put in place on conventional transit. Todd Hacquoil thanked Jim for the Union's contribution towards the Access-A-Bus 25th Anniversary BBQ.

Larry Hilton then spoke on the registration of Dialysis Patients and that he has a meeting on November 1st with the heads of the Dialysis Units in HRM. The Dialysis Unit is stressing that AAB is a much-needed service. They have new patients and a new unit is opening in Sackville. They are planning to move some of the Halifax patients to the Dartmouth Unit. They are also requesting more service from AAB.

Todd stated that he has some new ideas for the new AAB website and at present is waiting for a meeting to be set up.

Todd Hacquoil asked on behalf of himself and other riders that Metro Transit have low floor buses as well as Access-A-Bus available for concerts in the future.

It was pointed out that users are having problems transferring from their scooters to a seat after loading onto the bus. After they are ready to transfer from their scooters, they have to pass chairs that are strapped down to the floor, and sometimes have to squeeze through to get to their seats, as there are no seats in the back for them to sit in.

Larry Hilton pointed out that the wait list is getting longer and longer, as there are more users requesting the service on a daily basis.

Businesses Arising Out Of The Minutes - Tour of New Facilities - The new AAB facilities were toured by the AAB Board before the meeting. A first hand view of the operation was observed by the committee such as incoming calls and computer entries

and just how busy dispatch and scheduling are. The members were able to meet the office staff.

Clarification of a Specialist - Larry said that the HRM Occupational Health Nurse was preparing a list of definitions for specialists. When compiled it will be presented to the committee.

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Jim Leadon.

Low Floor Bus Sub-Committee - Todd reported that he is still waiting to have a meeting with Metro Transit. It was suggested to the committee that a questionnaire is mailed out to AAB users with the Annual General Meeting mail out.

No Show Late Cancellation Sub-Committee - Gary R. reported that there were 3 appeals pending and the committee would deal them with shortly.

Publications Relations Sub-Committee - There was no report due to the absence of the Chairperson.

The Transit Services Report will be presented at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 PM.

November 2006

Gary Russell called the November 22nd, 2006 meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The approval of the October 25th meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Committee members present were Gary Russell, Chairperson, Lynn DeMont, Vice-Chairperson, Marcia Guy, Secretary, Catherine Macintosh, Gwen MacLachlan, Bill Moffatt, Murray Holman, Todd Hacquoil, Peggy Brown, Councillor Gary Meade and Larry Hilton Supervisor Access-A-Bus.

Regrets were received from Cathy Cranidge, Lynn Eyland and Shauna MacEachern.

Order of Business-

Booster Seats - Lynn asked if there would be changes to the AAB service now that there is new legislation becoming effective on January 1st, 2007. Larry Hilton pointed out that AAB will abide by this legislation and that the Booster Seats will have to be supplied by the user.

Christmas Party

Will be held on December 6, 2006 from 7-9 PM at the Steak and Stein on Young Street.

Seat Belts on Low Floor Buses - Marcia asked why the seat belts were so uncomfortable on the low floor buses. Larry reported that the new buses would have a better-designed seat belt.

Access-A-Bus Advertising - Placards, notices, pamphlets and announcements will be available on Access-A-Bus and Low Floor Rider Buses.

Status Of New AAB Website - Todd mentioned that a meeting was scheduled for next week with Public Relations.

Criteria For Specialist Bookings - Deferred until the January Meeting.

Dialysis Meeting - Dialysis Unit is stressing an urgent need for more AAB Service. Meetings are ongoing. A round table discussion ensued. Larry Hilton will report back to the committee as information becomes available.

Persons With Disabilities Meeting - Metro Transit has been invited to talk to this committee and explain how the AAB Service works. Paul McDaniel and Larry Hilton will look after this.

Minutes and Agenda Tapes - It was pointed out now that Ann Brothers is no longer performing AAB support service that Peggy Brown was not receiving tapes of the Agenda and the Minutes. Larry will look into this.

5743 University Avenue - It was pointed out that the bus drivers are having difficulties picking up and dropping off users at this location, as there is a parking meter in the way. Councillor Meade said that the parking meter could be removed. Larry Hilton will look into this.

Christmas Events - The question was raised as to whether there were enough buses to cover the Christmas rush and Sunday Shopping. Larry stated that there would be an extra shift added and two extra buses.

490-4000 - Larry will be looking into why the complaints from AAB users are not being taken at this number.

Communications Problems - Deferred until the next meeting.

Eligibility Requirements - Deferred until the next meeting.

There was no correspondence in or out from the committee.

Low Floor Sub Committee - Todd will meet with Geoff Wright and members of the HRM Public Relations Staff. He is also in the process of having a map produced of just the low floor bus routes. When information is finalized the low Floor Sub-Committee will meet.

No Show Late Cancellation Committee - There are still 3 appeals pending.

Public Relations Sub-Committee - No report. Will be presented at the January Meeting.

Transit Services Statistical Report - Will be available at the January Meeting.

Added Items To The Agenda

Annual AAB BBQ - This item has been deferred till the January Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 PM. There will be no meeting in December.

The next meeting will be January 24th, 2007 from 2-4 p.m. at the Finance Dept. Duke Street Tower.

December 2006

No meeting was held.