

Marble Valley Regional Transit District

Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Marble Valley Regional Transit District was held on October 13, 2022, at 9:00 am, by conference call and in person.

Commissioners Present:

Devon Neary, Chair, RRPC

Ray Beyette, Sr., Secretary, Municipal member appointed by the Town of Proctor

Matt Patry, Treasurer, Vermont University

Matt Kinsman, Killington/Pico ski Resort Partners LLC

Bill Gillam, Rutland City Alderman

Young Namkung, Town of Killington

Ethan Pepin, RRPC, Transportation Planner

Others Present:

Ken Putnam, Executive Director

Jennifer Ellis, HR Manager

Dan Currier, VTRANS

Jill Prior, Minutes recorder

Call to Order

Devon Neary, Chair, called meeting to order at 9:08am.

Motion by Billy Gillam: Move to approve minutes of September 8, 2022, Seconded by Ray Beyette, and accepted by all. Motion passes.

Approve financials by Billy Gilliam: Move to approve financials, seconded by Ray Beyette and accepted by all. Motion passes.

Ridership: Ridership is trending up from 2019 (pre-COVID) numbers. Nationally looking at different drivers for ridership, post COVID, based on more pleasure rides opposed to work related travel due to more remote workforce in place.

Executive Director's Report:

Awards/Aclamations: MVRTD has been awarded the "Spirit of ADA" award by the Governor's office. This award is given to employers who reflect the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act in their employment practices. Jennifer Ellis was named as a vital partner with the ADA to ensure that MVRTD was able to keep things moving forward for their much needed programs. "When things get tough, it is always easy to say "No", but MVRTD always was able to find a way".

Electric Buses: Going well. Both buses underwent service the end of Sept/beginning of Oct, to help resolve the past issues with occasionally losing full power when traveling over Vermont's bumpy roads, causing jarring to the buses. The buses have been running without issues since servicing.

Electric Bus Charging Stations: The charging stations have been up and fully functioning after ABB sent out a tech to work through the issues.

Grant: Dan notified that 5339 Low-No Grant was awarded for new office, tear down of the old office and new bus barn in old office's location

Letenda Electric Buses: We have partnered with GMT for three new buses. We will be looking at acquiring a 4th electric bus, with board approval. On site visit, from Letenda, planned for Friday October 14th.

New Office Building: 10/11/2022 all of the footings are in, the forms are off. Stub walls to be installed next week, the slab is set to be in place by mid-Nov and the framing in place early Dec. Ken is taking pictures each day to create a time lapse view.

Covid: Nothing new to report.

Medicaid: No new updates. Business as usual.

Staffing: We still continue at a critical level. CDL training for current staff is hard to fit in. If a driver fails then it is hard to reschedule testing at times.

Route Analysis: Ethan and Jill had a 2nd community outreach session at the Transit Center that went very well. The community appreciates the live interaction with the transportation and planning partners. Devon reported that RLS is almost done with the public engagement portion and the next phase will be to develop concepts on new routes. We are planning on 2 more public hearings and plan to have a defined course of action that calls out new safe routes to review through the winter months to kick off March/April of 2023. Ken is looking for early information to support the grant application timeline.

Old Business:

- Bus shelters – looking to the current route analysis to give us a better idea of where the needs are.
- Spartan race went smoothly, any last minute changes due to construction, did not impede ridership which was close to 15,000 rides.

New Business:

- Working on plans for World Cup now
- Staffing Transit Center – Discussion held
- Safety vests are now being worn by all drivers. It is now part of the uniform policy. Due to visually distracting reflection in the windshield drivers are allowed to drive with vests off, but are required to have them on when outside of the vehicle.
- Young discussed the potential for more service needed in Killington. Compiling ridership numbers for the Welcome Center – Park & Ride
- New file server delivered 10/12/2022, working on program installation, estimated Go Live 11/17/2022
- Focusing on more positive campaigning around electric buses and their overall worth
- Review Proctor Route, based on ridership numbers. VTrans shows the Proctor Route as “Performing”, based on effective cost per passenger, per year. Based on pending Fixed Route analysis results may look at adding stops to Proctor Route, redirect the route or adding a microtransit option. Casella Project may shift ridership needs.
- Additional purchase of a 4th Letenda electric bus

Motion to approve purchase of 4th Letenda electric bus by Billy Gilliam: Ray Beyette 2nd. All Approved.

Motion by Ethan Pepin: Move to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Billy Gillam, Accepted by all.
Meeting Adjourned at 10:06am

Respectfully submitted by:

Ray Beyette Sr. Secretary