

Marble Valley Regional Transit District

Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Marble Valley Regional Transit District was held on December 8, 2022, at 9:00 am, by Microsoft Teams and in person.

Commissioners Present:

Devon Neary, Chair, RRPC
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, Ethan 2nd.

Approve Oct. Minutes by Billy Gillam: Move to approve minutes of October 13, 2022, Seconded by Matt Patry, and accepted by all. Motion passes.

Approve financials by Billy Gillam: Move to approve financials, seconded by Matthew Patry and accepted by all. Motion passes.

Ridership: Should ridership trends continue to be driven from pre-COVID (2019) numbers? Should we be looking more at previous month to compare going forward?

World Cup had record ridership in Nov, at 26,609. Matt Kinsman commented that Killington was very busy all day with the event and added entertainment, no issues with transportation were recorded, and everything went very well. Saturday was extremely busy, Sunday slowed down a bit.

Executive Director's Report:

Electric Buses: Overall working well, monitoring EBus ranges. Determining what effect the cold weather will have on the current ranges, as it hasn't been continuously cold yet this year. Had to switch out EBus a couple times mid route, due to reduction in battery charge. Looking at possibility of a quick charging at lunch time, as well as locations at Walmart/Killington/etc. requires a level 3 phase plug in. DriveElectricVT.com shows EV charging stations in Vermont for location reference.

Looking for more positive campaigning for electric vehicles, as there is still a deep rooted negativity around this source of transportation based on misinformation and simple lack of knowledge. EV compared to diesel, price comparison for part replacements on EV compared to diesel, battery technology has improved for EV and the public needs to be aware.

Letenda Electric Buses: Ken visited the Letenda plant and found that everyone was great to work with. Ken was able to drive the original prototype and was very impressed. The buses will have a 6" tail swing, which will make them safer in city route driving, the back wheels stay in track with the front and they have a 31 degree turning radius. The current prototype has a 170 mile range, per charge. While there, Ken worked on some spec adjustments to include bike racks and a split windshield assemble to make changing out any glass needs more cost effective. The new prototype will address the requested MVRTD spec changes. The ETA for delivery of the new buses will be April 2024, we will have the 1st buses in the US.

New Office Building: Due to concrete issues/delays the Admin building is currently running 4-5 weeks behind schedule. Ken has been told that the delays can be made up to meet the original timeline. Delays also caused the original framing company to pull out. The new framers began work on Monday Dec. 5th and we now have walls going up on the construction site. We have pre-bought many building materials, electrical and lighting components to avoid supply chain issues.

Staffing: We had an unfortunate passing of a long time employee/driver, Dennis Duby age 61, on November 19th. Dennis was a hard working employee that showed great work ethic and passion for his position. He will be missed by everyone here at MVRTD.

We still continue running at a critical level. Drivers are working OT hours and we have Supervisors driving routes as well. We are still actively looking for drivers, as well as the possibility of CDL reimbursement (training), within an extended employment contract. Driver rates will be in discussion during the 2023 fiscal planning review. Ending on a positive note, we made it through the World Cup weekend with scheduled coverage, even with being short staffed.

Route Analysis: RLS has submitted a completed tech memo for review, after 1 round of revisions. Within the memo it calls out consolidating current fixed routes, the South Extension & Hospital, as well as redefining the North and West routes. Devon spoke of having more "out of the box" thinking from RLS and is looking at the possibility of RLS and Via speaking on this route analysis study to see where they overlap and potentially develop a more defined plan. Devon spoke of bringing RLS here to sit in on a board meeting in the spring before the next fiscal year is implemented.

Old Business:

- Transit Center is open, 7:00am-5:00pm, starting on Dec. 6th. No full time MVRTD staff will be on site, although limited staffing may be available from time to time to answer questions.
- Additional purchase of a 4th Letenda electric bus – Approved by board

New Business:

- Working on plans for World Cup 2023, Ken & Matt Kinsman will discuss
- New file server up and running, Microsoft Office 365 installed, email migration completed
- Continued focus on more positive campaigning around electric buses and their overall worth

- Bus Shelters - Matt Kinsman to give Ken information on the shelters that Killington has put in place for their employees (Snowed Inn) which have glass walls and fully enclosed.
- Meeting will stay on 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:00am. No changes to date/time were requested by the board members
- Board membership, per bi-Laws, can be a total of 6 At Large members. Possibility of adding 2 riders and 1 community member to the board will be reviewed by Ken and Devon, based on the bi-laws.
- Review of current bi-laws and possible edit for a vote at the January board meeting.
- Revise MVRTD Board of Commissioner's Agenda to move "Open to Public" up, after the previous board meeting's minutes has been approved.

Motion by Billy Gillam: Move to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Matt Patry, accepted by all.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:07am

Respectfully submitted by:

Ray Beyette Sr. Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Beyette Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.