

Marble Valley Regional Transit District

Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Marble Valley Regional Transit District was held on January 12, 2023, 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
Ethan Pepin, RRPC, Transportation Planner
Joe Gunter, Fair Haven Town Manager
Ray Beyette, Proctor Representative

Others Present:

Ken Putnam, Executive Director
Jennifer Ellis, HR Manager
Dan Currier, VTRANS
Jill Prior, Minutes recorder

Absent:

Bill Gillam, Rutland City Alderman
Young Namkung, Town of Killington

Call to Order

Devon Neary, Chair, called meeting to order at 9:01am.

Approve Dec. Minutes by Ray Beyette: Move to approve minutes from December 8, 2022, Seconded by Matt Kinsman, and accepted by all. Motion passes.

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

Ridership: Ken reported no glaring issues with ridership. We are having normal up & down trends. Devon commented on the Fixed Routes being down a bit in ridership, based on pre-COVID 2019 numbers. Less of a downswing was reported in the 2020, 2021 Dec ridership numbers. South Route ridership increase potentially caused by the housing at the Cortina and other subsidized housing facilities on that route. Ken added that we are currently in the process of finalizing the implementation of the SPRINT ridership software (Stephen Falbel), which will be tablet driven data inputted by the drivers, not paper check sheets. Ridership data will be taken on the buses and downloaded from the tablets to generate reports. Manual ridership entry on the tablets, at the driver level, no door clicker counters.

HBSS Ridership software system (to replace RouteMatch) has a Fixed Route option that will assist with the ridership generation as well. Installation for VT Transit groups to begin spring of 2023. Devon spoke of the need for the E&D partners to be trained on the new HBSS systems once implemented, as well.

Ludlow had a large ridership increase. MVRTD generated surveys and held a public meeting to discuss changing the Ludlow Commuter's PM schedule to accommodate the employees, and align better with The Moover's schedule, as they changed their times back in the summer of 2022 and didn't notify MVRTD, causing missed transfers of riders. Increasing ridership demands may require an additional bus route to be generated, Ken will speak with OKEMO on funding to support an additional bus route/schedule from the Transit Center to OKEMO. As we have had instances of needing an "emergency" bus directed to the Transit Center to bring employees to OKEMO on the early AM route. Unfortunately the demand is erratic, one week the bus is flooded and the next it is empty. For the time being the Ludlow buses will be monitored daily and a 2nd bus will be added if there is a need, based on ridership. Ken will speak with OKEMO, as SEVT says we may have received the wrong ridership information.

Killington – Matt Kinsman received a letter from a business owner on the Killington Rd, the Killington Motel riders are being dropped off and having to cross the busy road (Rt. 4).

****Reminder for drivers**** Ask riders to get off the buses safely and walk behind the bus to be visible to other drivers. Talk with drivers during the next driver's meeting

Executive Director's Report:

Electric Buses: Working through the current build pattern for the 4 electric buses from Letenda with the specs that had been agreed upon during Ken's last visit and several meetings since. Still having Made in USA concerns. Ken spoke of a "Plan B" being discussed with Dan Currier to keep the project on course. We are also finding that the buses have reduced ranges with the colder weather. MVRTD added more drivers into the EBus training schedule.

Staffing: Continuing to look for drivers to add to staff. Also advertising for a Brokerage/Intake employee and a 2nd shift fueller/washer for the garage.

New Admin Building: Trusses are going up this week, next week the plan is to begin sheathing the roof. Currently gaining a day a week on the original production schedule. New Admin ETA 6/2023 no later than 7/1/23 to stay on track, current admin building down ETA of July 2023. Anticipating a "not so quick" teardown of the existing admin building and rebuild of the bus barn/structure due to potential past ground issues and foundational concerns. Plan is still to have the barn/structure up by fall of 2023

Transit Center: Since opening the doors there have been a few issues, unfortunately made larger by the parking garage staff. There have been a few instances with people sleeping in the lobby and not leaving when asked. MVRTD is looking into the ability of staffing the center more frequently to keep people moving and have a more consistent presence in the area. Devon spoke with the Mayor on 1/9/23 to get his take on the current conditions at the Transit Center and the Mayor is contacting the state to see about adding a security presence there. Possibility of having LAZ move their office up to parking deck and MVRTD could utilize the entire area for employees.

5339 – Low-No Grant: Very helpful with New Admin building construction, demolition of the current admin building and the build of the bus barn/structure, as well as the purchase of the 4 new E buses.

RFP has been initiated for a project manager for the new bus barn/structure, after tear down – APEX – Jay Labare

Ludlow Public Hearing: Meetings at 10:00am & 6:00pm were held on 1/11/23 to discuss the changes to the PM Ludlow Commuter schedule, beginning on Monday Jan 23rd, 2023. No negative comments were made during the first meeting. We were thanked for letting them know of the changes and they thought they made sense for the riders on the route. The 6:00pm meeting did not have any attendees.

RKC: Added AM/PM bus (Monday-Thursday) 2 times a day. Funding support will be added to the budget discussion in April for the 2 additional RKC runs.

EVgo: Charging Stations do not support “heavy-duty” vehicles, like EBuses. Devon spoke of the possibility to have a larger charging station by the Amtrak station. Ethan spoke of the possibility of available funding for EV Charging planning, and adding an option that would focus on transportation/buses.

Route Analysis: RLS is still in the design phase of the project. Devon may invite the RLS team to an upcoming board meeting to discuss their project.

Old Business:

- Staffing at the Transit Center
 - Still working on staff to fulfill based on needs
- New Board Members
 - 2 riders as possible new members to the board – Devon & Ken to reach out to them before the February 9th board meeting

New Business:

- Ray inquired about marketing materials to bring light to the services that MVRTD offers the town of Proctor. Jill to follow up with Ray.

Motion by Matt Kinsman: Move to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Ray Beyette, accepted by all.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45am

Respectfully submitted by:

Ray Beyette Sr. Secretary