

COA Transportation Committee Minutes

5/13/19 at the COA, 20 Alphabet Lane, 9am

Gerri Scoll, Jean MacQuiddy, Melissa Galton, Mignonne Murray, Audrey Pepper in attendance

Resident Comments:

Ms. Leeann Honda came to learn the work for the transportation committee as well as programs available through the COA for her father. She expressed an interest in getting involved herself.

Minutes: Minutes of the 2/13/19 meeting will be voted on next meeting.

Taxi program and vendor quotes discussion:

Quotes from JFK transportation, Inc and veterans taxi were distributed. Letters requesting quotes were sent out to 13 different companies. These were the only two that submitted a quote. The Wayland COA has used JFK for many years and have been very satisfied with their service. Jean suggested and Melissa agreed we include the tip in the total cost to the town. This would require detailed monthly reporting to the COA. The quote from JFK is more competitive than the quote from Veterans. The committee will continue to explore companies such as Lyft, Uber and GogoGrandparent to help fill this need.

Melissa asked to meet with the Lyft representative. Audrey and Mignonne recently attended the MassDot annual innovation conference and heard a presentation by Lyft and GogoGrandparent. In the past Lyft and Uber have offered only very set options to work with municipalities but Lyft seem to be starting to make some more flexible partnerships. Carlisle COA is working with Lyft on a pilot project and Melissa wants to learn more. We will set up a conference call with GogoGrandparent.

It was voted unanimously to contract with JFK Trans, Inc starting 7/1/19 when the current contract with Veterans expires.

Needs Assessment:

Mignonne distributed a 4/19 study by the Weston Planning Board on transportation "Best Practices". Mignonne has met with the author of the study and has emphasized that the COA has resources and knowledge and currently run many different forms of transportation for residents and that we would like work collaboratively. Mignonne has extracted parts of the COA needs assessment to discuss with different committees. The information for the COA transportation committee was distributed.

Smaller Vehicle research discussion:

Mignonne, Audrey and Jean went out to try out electric and hybrid plug in cars. Nothing tried out was ideal. Costs are high, installing an electric charging station is also costly. MassDot usually releases a grant annually that includes a small vehicle that is also wheelchair accessible. The grant will open in the coming months but they have not announced what the vehicle will be. If we like the option available this would be a more affordable way to purchase a smaller vehicle. Funding would not be guaranteed but it may be worth exploring. The committee is also open to exploring smaller vehicles that are not electric. Audrey and Jean will look at more vehicles and report back.

Usage update:

Audrey shared 10 months of van usage. Typically there are 10-11 individual rides a day.

Dates were discussed to schedule a conference call with GogoGrandparent and to have a van vendor visit with their product.

New van update: The new van is still in process but the contracts are here and are in the hands of the town manager for signatures.

10:36am the meeting was adjourned.