

# NP&EDC

NANTUCKET PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



**COMMISSIONERS:** Nat Lowell (Chair), Andrew Bennett (Vice Chair), Kara Buzanoski, Jack Gardner, Matt Fee, Wendy Hudson, Bert Johnson, Leslie B. Johnson, Joe Marcklinger, Barry Rector, John Trudel, and Linda Williams

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## MINUTES

**Monday, October 3, 2016**

PSF, 4 Fairgrounds Road, Training Room – 6:00 p.m.

**Purpose: Regular Meeting:**

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STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Vorce, Director of Planning; Mike Burns, Transportation Planner; Eleanor W. Antonietti, Zoning Administrator

ATTENDING MEMBERS: Nat Lowell (Chair); Andrew Bennett (Vice Chair)/ arrives after meeting called to order; Kara Buzanoski; Matt Fee; Jack Gardner; Wendy Hudson; Bert Johnson; John Trudel; Linda Williams

ABSENT: Leslie Johnson; Joe Marklinger; Barry Rector

Public present: Paula Leary (NRTA); Rachel Hobart (ReMain); Roberto Santamaria (Board of Health); Campbell Scott

On the phone: Jill Cahoon (AE Com); Gabe Sherman (Mass DOT)

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### **I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

### **II. Establishment of Quorum:**

Chairman Lowell declared a quorum was present.

### **III. Approval of Agenda:**

**Adopted as amended** with removal of Subsections C & D of VI by **UNANIMOUS** consent.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**The MOTION was made** by Chairman Lowell and seconded that the NP&EDC does hereby vote to approve the NP&EDC minutes for August 8, 2016, as submitted.

The vote was **UNANIMOUS**.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**NONE**

### **VI. ACTION DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **I. Action / Discussion Items:**

##### **A. NRTA – review potential revenue sources for existing and expanded service**

Paula Leary introduces Jill Cahoon who makes presentation explaining slides.

CAHOON reviews various slides regarding Phase II of year round NRTA study. Consensus is that year round service is for everyone.

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LEARY mentions Advisory Committee – made up of about 30 community members – who determined that year round service is needed as an all-inclusive way to provide access to services to otherwise isolated island residents.

CAHOON Goes over Innovative Funding Options, Managed Parking, Embarkation Fee FEE regarding Embarkation Fee numbers, asks CAHOON if she spoke to HyLine and SSA to get numbers related to commuter book numbers.

CAHOON Yes.

Continues with slide presentation onto Fare Analysis, recommending fare increase as there has not been a fare increase in 8 years. More palatable to commuters. Looking at average fare but will be looking at individual (cash versus pass) fares in more detail. Tourism explains high percentage of cash passengers on island. Overall goal with Fare Policy is to determine a rate that helps to cover cost of providing the service while not deterring the people from using said service. Complex fare increase timeframe is shown on a Potential Revenue Table. Focuses on Year 1 showing incremental increases in revenue according to different time frames. Explains dynamics of chart and order of magnitude figures with various fare increase options. Moves onto Fare Technology Benefits – refers to fare collection technology. Explains different types of Fare Technology. Looking at several different vendors. Reached out to 86 providers. 16 responses shown on slide (as of last week) but now have almost 25. All of technology types have been covered within Peer Review so far. Moves on to Next Steps. Looking for feedback from NPEDC.

LOWELL asks Board members if they have questions or comments. Not talking about routes, just talking about funding.

WILLIAMS still opposed to year round bus service. When did NRTA start out?

LEARY 22 years.

WILLIAMS When they first began, there were about 2 routes and a few buses. The expansion thus far has made sense but going beyond Stroll and trying to find people standing out there in cold weather seems ridiculous. Extending season into Fall and starting before Daffy might be better. Going from 0 to 100. Shuttle service from 2 Fairgrounds should run year round. Get the contractor trucks off the streets where they take up on street parking spaces. Against sending a kid out in frigid weather.

JOHNSON Kids take school bus. This is for Stop ‘n Shop workers.

WILLIAMS Seasonal workers are gone b/c visas expire. Against paid parking on the street but not against paid parking at 2 Fairgrounds. Would never vote to increase tax for hotels and B&B.

LOWELL suggests going through each strategy idea/Innovative Funding Options. Not opposed to increasing embarkation fee. Commuter books – should be a fee per book, not per ticket. Managed parking is another decent option. Let BOS pick method of payment for parking. \$1,000/year/vehicle for 2FG parking year round.

WILLIAMS They will go back to parking at Brant Point.

FEE They could move the line to make parking year round there illegal but then it becomes an enforcement issue.

TRUDEL How many buses are in operation, total?

LEARY 15 buses operated.

TRUDEL Do we have any advertizing on outside of bus?

LEARY No. Only on inside.

TRUDEL suggests advertizing and offers up some potential figures. Could be significant revenue.

LEARY Very controversial. Branding.

HUDSON Could be done as a quarterboard. i.e. “This bus sponsored by \_\_\_\_”. There could be private sector support. Hate that sales tax is still an option. Not an answer for this. Big question, given Linda’s concerns, is that it may be a huge jump, but there is the equality perspective. Are there other towns that have done this? How do we roll it back if the need we are anticipating is not really there? Worry about cost.

LEARY Vineyard has had great success.

HUDSON John had mentioned taxi vouchers. Are there other communities who have had to roll it back?

CAHOON All communities in last 5 years went with roll out that was slightly less than desired with idea that increased ridership would lead to expanded service. Looked at cost saving options. Less frequency –

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one bus used for 2 routes. Start smaller. All 3 communities which started with curtailed roll out ended up expanding to desired level of service. Millennials and elderly are greatest users.

WILLIAMS we go from 50,000 to 10,000 right after Stroll

GARDNER If buses were on time, people would be there.

WILLIAMS You have the Island Ride for senior citizens now. Very popular. Won't work after Stroll.

LEARY Remember that we held public meetings in January. A lot of year round people who use bus in the summer came and strongly supported a reliable year round service. Mostly the OSR and mid-island corridors. Shuttle funding has to happen at BOS level. Not part of this discussion. We only ran it until Labor Day this year b/c funding ran out.

TRUDEL Implement mid-island route year round. 50% of overall revenue is generated from mid island routes.

WILLIAMS We have now taken Lovers Lane and Blvd. so buses could go down those roads now as they are open access now.

VORCE What action is expected by the Board tonight? Are we talking about sponsoring some of the Home Rule Petitions? Such as the Embarkation fee.

LOWELL thinks we need to look at Embarkation Fee increase, or something like the Great Point stickers, or beach stickers.

B JOHNSON How many beach or Great Pt. stickers do we sell?

HUDSON As a downtown merchant, could be a hardship to come to town. Vehicle registration fee could be better. Deters more vehicles and enhances public transportation.

WILLIAMS That only goes after locals, not the summer residents/seasonal visitors.

LOWELL Have to have a fee attached to car ticket. Can we add tacking a fee to summer vehicles? A fee for summer cars. Parking privilege fee. Has to be on SSA bill to bring your car.

TRUDEL What is our goal tonight? Need to pare these down to viable options.

BURNS We need to know what direction you want us to take? Recommendation for the BOS as a way for financing this. Sticker program could be added. We need a recommended tool box.

LEARY Explains Hospitality fees – as used by other communities. It's a \$1 fee on your charge that goes to public transit. (in answer to LW's concern that hospitality tax is bad idea as they already pay occupancy tax/fee).

FEE BOS were leaning towards doubling the rates b/c they haven't been touched in 8 years and restricting to year round service to more demonstrably popular routes. Had to push them to talk about other funding b/c they were satisfied with raising 80% of needs funds. Embarkation fee was also popular. There was a push "Don't charge downtown." Thinks downtown businesses are suffering b/c many people just park all day long downtown, keeping potential customers from being able to park and shop. Thinks we have to bite the bullet on that option and enforcement.

BENNETT Metering idea like Hyannis creates more circulation than stickers as the stickers allow people to stay in same spot all day.

Discussion about TON putting up some of the money to get it started but not enough "Free Cash" but FEE points out that taxes are already going to go up again b/c of number of infrastructure improvements that need influx of cash.

WILLIAMS Condense it down to 3 options.

BURNS Support for embarkation and fleshing out idea for downtown parking sticker and increasing the fares

LEARY Suggests they restrict their recommendations to an increase, avoiding reference to doubling it.

**The MOTION was made by Linda Williams and seconded that NPEDC support exploration of Embarkation fee, changes in fares charged, parking sticker, and continuation/expansion of 2FG SHUTTLE.**

The vote was **UNANIMOUS**

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### B. Modification of PLUS agreement update

VORCE positive change.

The **MOTION** was made by Linda Williams and seconded that **NPEDC** ratify removing the Board of Health from PLUS.

The vote was **UNANIMOUS**

### ~~C. South Eastern Economic Development (SEED) Corporation and Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank – Business workshops for entrepreneurs~~

### ~~D. Housing Production Plan – contract with Edward Marchant~~

### E. Old South Road Corridor Study – Review draft study area and scope

BURNS Have a low budget of \$25,000 for consulting services. A lot of data collected on several intersections. We could save money on that aspect. Study area is OSR intersections – connectivity & mobility between OSR and Milestone Road is important. Goes through current recommendations – asking for capital funding at Town Meeting for Fairgrounds and Old South Road. Study would evaluate connectivity and left hand turning movements (coming out of Naushop or Amelia Drive). Increased frequency of public transportation along OSR which currently does not serve the existing population density. Bus pull offs. Need more connectivity for the bike crossings. Making it safer by including refuge areas – need to investigate ways to make it safer.

FEE especially needed along Fairgrounds.

BURNS Trying to make this multi-modal in spirit of Complete Streets. Breaks it down into tasks. 1) Define Study Area. 2) Goals and objectives. 3) Evaluation criteria. 4) Public involvement. Existing and Future Conditions will allow us to rely on institutional knowledge. Enlists Board members to submit comments now to help refine game plan going forward. Don't want to start doing this analysis unless we have sufficient support.

LOWELL Use the ideas connected with RICHMOND Group to avoid duplication, given low budget.

BURNS What TetraTech is doing is a peer review of Richmond development. We are looking at more macro-level, but we will want to use some of that data.

LOWELL Need to spread out the traffic congestion. There will be about 400+ units combined along OSR in coming years.

BURNS This would give people an idea of what it will look like. Identify strategies for investing in roadways or contemplated improvements. Conceptualize. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> step. Has to write project scope for evaluation services that we are going to seek. Will try to form a work group.

LOWELL Do we need to take a vote?

VORCE We need to name the members who will be on the workgroup.

John Trudel, Jack Gardner, Linda Williams, Kara Buzanoski will be on work group, as determined **BY CONSENSUS**.

BURNS This would not constitute a quorum so would not have to post.

Gabe You are thinking through all of the right issues. Just send over final scope of work. (MASS DOT has to approve.)

### F. Special Town Meeting – Review of Warrant Articles

VORCE nothing of NPEDC concern but here in case you want to weigh in on any of the articles.

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**VII. Other Committee Reports**

HUDSON Rural Policy Commission

Went last Friday in Truro. They had set up subcommittees and was on Economic Development Commission. Going to be meeting with them in Worcester area. Has lots of ideas for small business perspective. Seeking tangible suggestions to advance to governor.

**VIII. Staff Reports**

BURNS directs Board members to see last page of packet. You might remember amending TIP. This is list of bids that came in for eligible bidders. We came in below. Next step is notice to proceed. In town bikepath is close to getting started. Low bid was Northern Construction.

**IX. Other Business:**

NONE

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**ADJOURNMENT M/S/A to ADJOURN MEETING at 7:45 p.m.**

Submitted by:  
Eleanor W. Antonietti