



WRTA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 16, 2016  
MINUTES

WRTA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Lehtola called the meeting to order at 8:35a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Advisory Board Member present: Doug Belanger-Leicester, Jacob Sanders-Worcester, John Ostrosky- Shrewsbury, Mark Binnall-Auburn, Barbara Connelly-Grafton, Anita Scheipers-West Boylston, Robert Spain- Millbury, Dennis Lipka-Holden, William Lehtola – Spencer, Brian Palaia- Oxford. Noted activity of board members: *Mr. Palaia entered the board meeting at 9:20 a.m.*

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to accept the minutes for May 19, 2016. On motion by Robert Spain, seconded by Mark Binnall (with an abstention by Mr. Ostrosky) all other board members voted in favor of the motion. The advisory board accepted the minutes of May 19, 2016.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairperson Lehtola called for any business from the public and no one responded.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Chairperson Lehtola welcomed Ms. Scheipers to the advisory board meeting. Chairperson Lehtola noted that Election of Officers would be in July as it was not posted for the June 2016 meeting. Chairperson Lehtola requested that the July agenda reflect the boards discussion regarding meeting day and time adjustments.

Mark Binnall commented on the possibility of the board members honoring employees that retire from the company. Mark Binnall inquired into the possibility of having an “audio” version of the bus schedules. Mr. Church noted the request for an “audio” version of the bus schedules.

Doug Belanger remarked on the need for signage indicating where bus schedules can be located at the Hub. Mr. Church indicated he would look into providing a decal for this purpose. Doug Belanger, on behalf of the Town of Leicester, thanked the WRTA for providing bus service regarding the fallen officers. Doug Belanger commented on the importance of showcasing the new facility to the Press or video market it before the official opening. Doug Belanger emphasized how the facility has many technological advances and serves as an anchor for Green Island.

**Communities Served:**

Auburn	Brimfield	Douglas	Grafton	Millbury	North Brookfield	Paxton	Southbridge	Wales	West Boylston
Barre	Brookfield	Dudley	Holden	New Braintree	Oakham	Princeton	Spencer	Warren	West Brookfield
Berlin	Charlton	East Brookfield	Holland	Northborough	Oxford	Rutland	Sturbridge	Webster	Worcester
Boylston	Clinton		Leicester	Northbridge		Shrewsbury	Sutton	Westborough	

Board members agreed that both the Hub and the new Maintenance & Operations facility are key factors in providing sustainability for the city's public transportation needs. Board members discussed having a tour that would be film by the local access station. Mr. Church agreed with showcasing the facility.

Jacob Sanders thanked the WRTA for their participation and support in regard to the City's WWII monument activities at the common. Jacob Sanders asked for confirmation regarding the outlets used for posting the updated schedules. Mr. Church replied that posting would continue to be through both electronic and print mediums. Jacob Sanders recommended that the Administration should meet with the City and MassDOT regarding the upcoming construction scheduled for Quinsigamond Ave. Mr. Church informed the board they would be doing so.

John Ostrosky asked for a follow-up regarding Route 15 serving Route 9 to Northborough Crossing. Mr. Church informed the board that the request is under discussion. The present route cannot accommodate the extension and keep its existing headway. Mr. Church commented that a second vehicle would be needed and that there is no present budget for one. Mr. Church indicated he is discussing funding options with businesses in the area and he recognizes the potential for service. Mr. Church informed the board members that Northborough Crossing had no bus stops or pull outs at the present time.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **FINANCE**

*a. Update on Senate Ways and Means Vote for RTA Budgets*

The Senate approved \$84.1 million but the Governor is still dealing with overall cuts in the State budget. MARTA expects the final number to be between \$81-\$84 million and that all of the Massachusetts RTA's would be level funded at \$82 million. The board will be kept updated as this moves forward.

*b. Update on Route 10 service*

Route 10 will run in FY`17 servicing Worcester State University and Assumption College. The cost will be 30% colleges and 70% WRTA. Mr. Church informed the board that talks regarding workable models for all colleges are continuing.

### **CAPITAL**

*a. M & O Construction*

Pictures of some of the recent construction were shown. The following list is an update on the construction process and Mr. Church explained that the facility is able to recycle its wash water.

- Mobile lifts installed
- Body Shop, Paint Booth, Bus Wash and their components
- Interior employee rooms
- Electric (Fast Charger) Station
- Start of some landscaping and the grading continues

The facilities ribbon cutting is being planned for some time in mid-September as the facility should be fully operational.

*b. M & O Environmental Clean-up*

The site's stock piled coal tar removal will be completed by the end of June. The coal tar extraction will continue to the area of the construction crew trailer. There is no need for additional funding at this time to extract the last area. Eversource (formally NSTAR) has not provided a definitive timeline as to when they will complete the environmental work on their property.

REPORTS

*a. Presentation on proposed August 2016 service changes*

The presentation on the proposed August 2016 services changes can be viewed at the following link: [August 2016 Service Changes Advisory Board Presentation](#).

*b. Update on proposed August 2016 service change public meetings*

Mr. Church gave a brief summary of the general comments given at the meetings. Board members discussed the importance of communicating service changes as well as being open to adjusting changes. Board members spoke about their future objective of adding service whenever possible.

*c. ACTION ITEM: Vote to approve proposed August service changes*

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to approve the implementation of the proposed service changes on August 27, 2016.

**Motion: The WRTA Advisory Board approves the implementation of the proposed service changes commencing on August 27, 2016. These service changes are proposed to improve ridership and overall route productivity on certain routes. In addition, these proposed service changes are also required for the move to the new WRTA Maintenance and Operations facility at 42 Quinsigamond Avenue. The proposed service changes were discussed with the public at meetings held on June 7, 2016, June 13, 2016, and June 14, 2016.**

On motion by Dennis Lipka, seconded by Robert Spain, and carried unanimously, the Chairperson and board members approved the implementation of the proposed service changes commencing on August 27, 2016 as presented.

OTHER

*a. Buses for use by Auburn and Worcester Police Departments for Officer Tarentino wake and funeral*

The WRTA contributed four (4) buses for transportation regarding Officer Tarentino's wake and funeral. Mr. Church helped to facilitate additional buses from other Massachusetts

RTA's for this event. The total of buses contributed were fifteen (15) for the needed transportation.

c. *"Heart to Hub" event overview/recap*

The MBTA Commuter Rail express train from Worcester to Boston started May 23, 2016. The WRTA posted signs in print and electronic media to support this event. Mr. Binnall asked if the MBTA worked with the WRTA schedules. Mr. Church informed the board members that the MBTA sets its schedule according to its needs. The RTA's would thereby work around the MBTA schedules.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to adjourn. On motion by Anita Scheipers, seconded by Robert Spain and carried unanimously, the advisory board meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next WRTA Advisory Board Meeting will be on July 21, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., located at the hub 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.