

North Reading Transportation Committee

August 21, 2023

Attendance: Dan Greenberg, Diane Norris, Rebecca Griffin, June Storey, Lil Hartman

Absent: Alexis Arsenis

Call to order: 5:36pm

Review minutes from 6/29/23. Approved.

Discussion

Grant money for a 14-passenger van was approved.

Suggested we ask to be on a regular replacement plan for new vans.

Recommendation was to document van needs.

MEVA denied rides to a citizen needing Transportation.

A citizen needing frequent medical rides to Boston has been recognized by The Ride and they are mailing an application.

North Reading Rides together volunteer program covers all out-of-town rides. A free lunch will be offered to thank the volunteers. Relationships are being built between Volunteer drivers and riders. Requests are being made between riders and drivers to keep the same riders and drivers together. Senior Center staff are coordinating rides and hybriding them between the use of MEVA and the volunteer rides program to help handle the volume. A new program coordinator is expected to be hired in September to help handle the calls. A volunteer is offering their time from home to put the volunteer rides program into sign up genius to make it visible online.

Suggested revisiting merging use of town owned school vans with senior center vans to accommodate needs.

Digital literacy grant was denied. The state budget was earmarked. Hoping to hear from you by December.

Looking to replace a senior center driver. An advertisement has been posted, the pay rate is \$15.75 an hour with the hours being Monday- Friday 8-4. Suggested bringing it up at the volunteer driver's lunch.

The pilot program is running at Aldersgate on Monday to give more flexibility for senior programming. People are being denied access to programs at the Senior Center because of lack of space. The capacity is 60 people. Average number of people using the Senior Center in a 4-month time frame is 300.

Enrichment programs have been suggested for the Senior Center and a book club. The Senior Center is looking for volunteers to run programs.

Lyft use has not been approved by the finance director. Lyft does not offer tax exemption.

Next month Lil will bring statistics and information on drivers' needs.

It was suggested in the future we look at renewable resource vehicles.

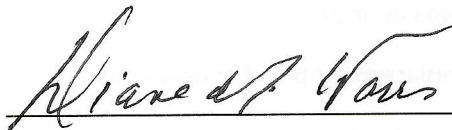
Dan will reach out to Beverly who has already done so to find out their process.

June offered to go with another committee member to visit Wellesley to get a better understanding of their Transportation Program. Woburn & Lincoln were also suggested as useful resources for their Transportation Program.

Next meeting: To be determined by email

Meeting adjourned 6:48pm

Meeting minutes approved:



Date:

9/26/2023