



DRAFT

ADA Transportation Special Advisory Committee

2 PM Thursday, January 10, 2013

CCRPA Offices, 225 N Main Street, Suite 304, Bristol, CT

Committee Members: Please e-mail/call if you will be late or absent

Special Needs: We do not discriminate on the basis of disability.

Please call in advance if you need auxiliary aids.

- I. Call to order, determination of quorum (51% of Committee Membership). The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:17 PM by Chair Rob Newton with the following in attendance except as otherwise noted:

	Representative	Representative	Representative
Berlin	~	~	~
Bristol	~	Art Helfgott	Rob Newton, Chair
Burlington	~	~	~
New Britain	Mike Karwan	~	~
Plainville	Shawn Cohen, Vice Chair <small>na</small>	Rob Palaski	
Plymouth	~	~	~
Southington	~	~	~
Ex officio	Dennis Kern		

Na=noted absence

- II. Comments from the public
 There were no comments from the public.

III. Action Item

A. Approve the September 20, 2012 meeting minutes
 Motion: Art Helfgott moved to approve the September 20, 2012 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Mike Karwan; passed unanimously.

B. Approve 2013 meeting schedule
 Motion: Art Helfgott moved to approve the meeting schedule as presented; seconded by Mike Karwan; passed unanimously.
 It was noted the location of the meeting may change from CCRPA.

IV. Information items and other matters

A. Introduction of Greg Martin, Paratransit Coordinator

Greg Martin was hired as the Paratransit Coordinator/Emergency Planner for CCRPA. He will be attending a paratransit eligibility workshop in two weeks and will be responsible for determining eligibility.

B. Vacancy on Committee

Following the resignation of Gary Allen from the Committee, it was explained there is an opening on the Committee for a member from Bristol. Paul Duquette, a resident of Bristol and a paratransit client, submitted a letter of interest. The Committee reviewed the letter and approved recommending the Agency Board appoint Paul Duquette to the Committee. The Chair also contacted Mayor Ward regarding the appointment but did not receive a response. CCRPA staff will prepare a memo for the Agency Board recommending Paul Duquette's appointment to the Committee.

C. Holiday Schedule and Inclement Weather Notice

Flyers detailing the holiday schedule and operations during inclement weather were given to DATTCO to be distributed to clients on the paratransit vehicles. It was noted by a member that some clients may not have received the flyer. CCRPA staff will contact DATTCO regarding this and will prepare additional copies if necessary.

D. Facility Outreach

CCRPA staff has been meeting with facilities regarding the paratransit service. Outreach will continue during the coming months.

E. Paratransit Statistics

The number of applications for paratransit service for providers across the state was discussed. Hartford had the highest number of new applicants while Willimantic had the lowest, Bristol/New Britain fell in the middle. It was questioned if based on the number of applicants compared to population of the service area and the number of disabled residents, the number of people who need the paratransit service but who are currently not served could be extrapolated. This will be considered.

F. Online Paratransit Application

CCRPA staff informed the Committee that the paratransit website is undergoing updates. One update includes an application that can be downloaded and read by screen readers, enabling individuals with vision impairments to complete the paratransit application. The application can then be submitted online. CCRPA has received several electronic submissions.

G. Southington Bus Service

Deputy Director, Francis Pickering, spoke to the Committee about bus service in Southington and other municipalities that currently lack service, including Plymouth. He explained in the coming months the bus system will be studied and a regional transit plan completed. This may result in changes to current bus routes, which may reduce costs, thereby enabling the addition of new bus routes. He also provided information about CTfastrak and upgrades to the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line. With improvements, it may be possible to provide feeder service to these corridors in the future.

H. Other business

1. Paratransit vehicles

A Committee member asked if CCRPA considered the use of taxi cabs as part of the paratransit service. With the RFP in 2014, CCRPA will consider the use of alternative vehicles, including smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles, that can be used for the service.

2. Art Helfgott's Retirement

Art Helfgott informed the Committee that he retired from CW Resources and will be resigning from the Committee. The Chair thanked Art for his service to the Committee and wished him well in his retirement.

3. Appeal Hearing

Chair Rob Newton requested that it be noted an appeal hearing was held December 21, 2012 regarding disruptive behavior on board the paratransit vehicle. The hearing was heard by Art Helfgott, Mike Karwan and Rob Newton. The decision of CCRPA was upheld and a letter stating such was mailed to client the same day.

V. Adjournment was declared at approximately 3:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Abigail St. Peter, Assistant Planner