

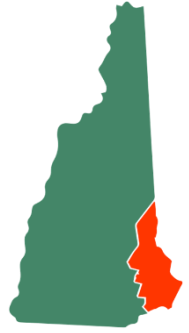
Alliance for Community Transportation (ACT)

Working to expand affordable and efficient community transportation in southeastern New Hampshire

MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, July 10, 2024
9 – 10:30AM

McCONNELL CENTER, 61 LOCUST ST, ROOM 305 DOVER, NH
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85311601180?pwd=Vm5qRDJDZVhVIRCSjVGY2ION1FOdz09>



MINUTES

Members In-person:

Betty Smith (Ready Rides), Tim Diaz (Rockingham Nutrition MOW), Tahja Fulwider (Ready Rides), Colin Lentz (Strafford Regional Planning Commission), Angelique Pandolph (Easterseals), Lisa Ludwigson (Easterseals), Ken Hale (Gather), Kate Sullivan (Community Partners)

Members Online:

Derek Lavoy (Granite State Independent Living), Susanne Peace (NH Future In Sight), Teri Palmer (Statewide Mobility Manager)

Guests:

Dennis Shannahan (Dept. Mayor, Dover), Deanna Strand (Dover Adult Learning Center), Amanda Sears (Age-Friendly Deerfield), Creighton Ward (ABLE NH staff), Katie Phillips (ABLE NH board), Alex Beauchner (ABLE NH board), Lisa Steadman (ABLE NH), Ally Mulligan (Liberty Livery), Carolan Doran (Ready Rides), Martha English (Ready Rides), Louis Esposito (ABLE NH),

Staff: Jeff Donald

1) Welcome & Introductions

The meeting opened at 9:00 AM. Colin Lentz chaired the meeting in the absence of Rad Nichols and Scott Bogle.

Jeff Donald noted that Scott Bogle had recently received an award from the State Coordinating Council (SCC) for his work in regional mobility management in RCC region 10, and an award from the NH Planners Association for his work on the East Coast Greenway.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes {VOTE}

Betty Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Kate Sullivan. The minutes were approved unanimously in-favor, with one abstention.

BARRINGTON
BRENTWOOD
BROOKFIELD
DOVER
DURHAM
EAST KINGSTON
EPPING
EXETER
FARMINGTON
FREMONT
GREENLAND
HAMPTON
HAMPTON FALLS
KENSINGTON
KINGSTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON
NEW CASTLE
NEW DURHAM
NEWFIELDS
NEWINGTON
NEWMARKET
NEWTON
NORTH HAMPTON
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
PORTSMOUTH
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
RYE
SEABROOK
SOMERSWORTH
SOUTH HAMPTON
STRAFFORD
STRATHAM
WAKEFIELD

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3) Vice Chair Election {VOTE}

Tim Diaz made a motion that Scott Bogle be elected as vice-chair; seconded by Betty Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Updates & Statistics

Jeff Donald led the group through updates on the standard set of metrics. In general, the steady increases we have seen in rides and ridership have continued, as has the utilization of the Common Application.

Jeff Donald also took the membership through the demographics of those who have used the Common Application. Race and ethnicity track roughly with the general population, but men seem under-represented in our dataset.

Jeff Donald finished by reviewing ACT's performance to budget as of the end of May.

5) Section 5310 Funding Increase {VOTE}

Jeff Donald informed members that NHDOT is offering \$44,900 in one-time incremental 5310 funding. He welcomed input as to the best use of this money, with the caveat that it should go to someone who can comply with all the requirements that come with a 5310 award. The Executive Committee will come up with a recommendation for the general membership at its next meeting.

6) Partner Update: Louis Esposito, ABLE NH

Staff and board members from ABLE NH organization gave a presentation about the challenges facing people with disabilities when accessing transportation and urged ACT to do what it can across our membership to eliminate or minimize those challenges. They also extended an open invitation to attend ABLE's transportation working group on the second Friday of every month.

Lisa Steadman reviewed some materials being developed by ABLE NH around how to discuss disabilities and people who live with them (including harmful terminology).

7) SFY25 Workplan

Jeff presented updates to the ACT work plan for SFY25 and pointed out new areas for discussion and feedback.

8) Lead Agency and Member Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Jeff Donald explained the requirement for a MOU between ACT and the Lead Agency (COAST). He asked the members to review the draft MOU and provide feedback. Jeff Donald also presented a draft MOU between ACT and individual providers and members. Both MOUs were updated to reflect a recent update to the organization bylaws. The general members will vote to accept a final version of the two MOUs at a future meeting.

9) Outreach

The training and information video for Route 7 On Demand is still in development. Donald is waiting on the first cut and will report back on progress. Donald also called for suggestions of "non-obvious" targets for outreach.

10) Statewide Updates

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J. Donald explained that he moderates a peer-to-peer network of volunteer driver programs statewide that will be meeting in-person around October. He also chairs the Volunteer Driver Initiative through the Alliance for Healthy Aging, and recently launched a website (NHVDP.org) to encourage residents to become volunteer drivers. Teri Palmer let the membership know that Jeff Donald is working on a group developing best-practices for volunteer driver programs throughout the state. She also offered that NHVDP.org is a good resource for volunteers. Teri reminded those members who provide data to the state of the need for information about why clients are sometimes not able to use services.

11) Information Exchange

Volunteer NH is starting a new round of grants for large (\$15,000 – \$20,000) and small (\$2,000 - \$4,000) projects that can including volunteer recruitment and equipment purchases.

Amanda Sears provided updates on Age-Friendly Deerfield's efforts to increase transportation services for local seniors, in coordination with ACT members.

Deanna Strand introduced herself and noted that transportation is a major barrier for students at the Dover Adult Learning Center. Jeff Donald emphasized the role of ACT in coordinating existing providers and vehicles to address transportation challenges like Dover Adult Learning Center's.

Louis Esposito informed members that ABLE NH hosts a Transportation Equity Task Force that meets on the second Friday of each month. All are welcome.

12) Miscellaneous

Jeff Donald reminded members to fill out and sign their annual conflict of interest forms. Katie Phillips explained that many people (with and without disabilities) often have difficulty navigating the COAST bus. Jeff Donald said he would coordinate with Rad Nichols about Katie's concerns and issues she's run into.

13) Adjournment

Betty Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tim Diaz