

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

D. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

**I. Introduction**

**MEMBERS**

Pauline Hamel, Ayer; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg; Jon Wyman, Westminster, Paula Caron, Fitchburg; Jeremy Callahan, Ayer; Nikki Tishler, MassDOT Planning; Tracy Murphy, Winchendon; John Kilcoyne, Sterling; David Manugian, Groton; Thatcher Kezer, MassDevelopment/Devens; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3.

**Guests**

Paul Funch, Groton Trails; Frank Maxant, Ayer.

**Staff**

Sheri Bean, Brad Harris, Brian Doherty, George Snow, George Kahale

**II. Approval of July 15, 2015 Minutes**

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the July 15, 2015 MJTC minutes as printed with one abstention.

**III. Trail Vision Plan – What It Is, How to Do One and Why**

P. Funch presented a PowerPoint on Groton's Trail Vision Plan. The State Trails Vision Plan was completed in 2001 and needs updating. In 2012, The MA Trails Advisory Board set a goal to develop regional plans to build into the State plan. In 2013 the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition made it a goal to encourage towns in the region to develop plans. Groton's plan was developed and adopted by the Groton Selectmen in 2014. He explained in detail the need for a trail vision plan, the process used by Groton to develop the plan, and the lesson's learned.

S. Bean added that MRPC is working on Lancaster's Trail Vision Plan which is funded through the District Local Technical Assistance Contract. Two communities in our region will have Trail Vision Plans. Our goal is to have five communities participate, so that we can develop a Regional Trail Vision.

**IV. MART Bus Route Changes – A Review**

G. Kahale presented the Regional Transit Plan for the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority which is an analysis of bus routes and demand responsive services. He explained in detail the purpose of the plan, MART Ridership Trends, Fare Rates and Collection Methods, Environmental Policies and Service Recommendations. B. Harris added that the full report is available on MART's website, mrta.us.

Questions and answers and comments followed.

**V. Contract Status Reports**

- a. FTA/RTA

G. Kahale stated that MART fixed route service has expanded service to Lunenburg. Westminster Selectboard has approved service to its town and MART is working on route development. MART will hold a meeting with the Athol Selectmen regarding fixed route bus service in Athol.

G. Kahale stated Wachusett Station project is ongoing and the Ayer Parking Facility is still on hold.

b. MassDOT 3C

B. Harris indicated that the MPO met earlier in which they approved an amendment to the Public Participation Plan (PPP). The PPP was out for a 45 day public comment period. The amended document will be posted to the website.

B. Harris added beginning October 1, 2015 MRPC will start a new four year 3C contract.

B. Harris explained that at the last MJTC meeting a question was raised about maintenance on I-190. MassDOT responded that with the recent reduction of staff due to the early retirement incentive, the District is evaluating how to balance their available resources. The District is aware of the need and will try to get the work done as soon as possible.

B. Harris distributed usb drives containing the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan.

B. Harris presented a handout entitled Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization Subregion Representative Selection Process. He explained we will be meeting with communities to solicit representatives for the four Subregions of the MPO.

B. Harris distributed a flyer regarding Connecting Our Communities Along Trails on September 26, 2015 in the town of Templeton.

**C. Administrative Matters**

B. Harris stated the next meeting of the MJTC will be on November 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**D. Adjournment**

It was the consensus of the MJTC to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:**

September 16, 2015 MJTC Agenda

July 15, 2015 MJTC Minutes

Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization Subregion Representative Selection Process

Montachusett Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Plan – Executive Summary

Connecting Communities Along our Trails Flyer

Town Trails Vision Process PowerPoint