

# NANTUCKET REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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## ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of September 13, 2017. The meeting took place in the Community Room of the Nantucket Police Station, 4 Fairgrounds Road, Nantucket, MA 02554. Members of the Board present were: Dawn Hill Holdgate, Jim Kelly, Matt Fee, Rita Higgins, Jason Bridges and Karenlynn Williams. Chairman Hill Holdgate opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Joint Meeting of NRTA Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen

Year Round Service Implementation Plan Discussion. Paula Leary, NRTA Administrator provided the Board with a summary of eighteen months of work conducted through grants, consultants and public outreach and the outcomes that demonstrate the demand and need for year round bus service. Ms. Leary stated the service needs to be affordable, reliable, convenient and safe to be successful. Ms. Leary provided information on the current level of service provided with nine routes providing service to the mid-island areas, Sconset, Madaket, Surfside and Jetties Beaches and the airport with maximum service hours on the main routes operating from 7:00 a.m. to midnight, operating 148 days in 206, providing over 19,000 of revenue service and over 192,000 revenue miles with just over 287,000 passenger boardings. The three main routes that operate the entire summer season, the Mid Island and Miacomet Loops and Sconset via Old South Road Route make up 60% of the ridership and service the most populated areas, not just during the summer but of the year round population. At the conclusion of the 2017 season nearly 6 million riders will have been service since service began in 1995. Ms. Leary stated that with several housing projects including Sachem's Path, the Town's housing project and the Richmond development will only increase the population in those areas. Ms. Leary presented the recommended base service and alternate base service recommendations for year round service to begin mid-October 2018. The recommended base service includes an extra week of service on the Madaket Route with 60 minute frequency, the Miacomet and Mid Island Loops operating with 30 minute frequency and a modified Sconset via Old South Road Route with five trips to Sconset and a turn-around along Nobadeer Farm Road with 40-60 minute frequency. Service would operate weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and weekends from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The alternate base service includes the Miacomet and Mid Island Loops operating with 30 minute frequency and a modified Sconset via Old South Road Route with five trips to Sconset and a turn-around along Nobadeer Farm Road with 40-60 minute frequency. Ms. Leary stated that there are customer service limitations with the alternate base service with decreased hours of

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operation during the week and weekend that results in unreliable service for employment trips, impacts the customer experience and potential for use, decreases the ridership and fare revenue potential. The operating expense for the recommended base service is \$838,000, revenues of \$427,000 with \$411,000 of additional funding needed. The alternate base service operating expenses is \$703,000, revenues of \$365,000 with \$337,200 of additional funding needed. Ms. Leary discussed viable funding options and recommended a fare and pass rate increase because there hasn't been an increase in over ten years and it would coincide with additional service being provided and through the Town's local assessment which would be assessed for FY19 operations and be reflected on the Town's local aid contribution in FY21, the local assessment would increase to \$809,943 Ms. Leary mentioned that prior funding options were no longer on the table, which included local tax options that required passage of a bill by the state legislator that failed and parking management that was taken out of consideration. Mr. Kelly commented that he has become educated and supports year round service. Mr. Bridges commented that he supports year round service. Mr. Fee commented that he is concerned that the town budget is frightening and is not convinced service is needed in January and February. Chairman Hill Holdgate commented that the service needs to be reliable. Ms. Williams, representing the disabled community, commented on the service may not be needed all day. Dave Fredericks stated that year round service has a value. There was Board consensus for a level of year round service. Mr. Kelly moved to adopt the recommendation of year round bus service at the recommended base service and for the town to fund the service; seconded by Ms. Williams, Mr. Fee abstained. So voted.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Approved: December 6, 2017