



**January 17th, 2024
Open Session Minutes**

**Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)
Advisory Board Meeting
Taunton City Hall
Silver City Conference Room, 2nd Floor
15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780
and
Zoom**

1. Open Session Convenes

Mayor O'Connell called the meeting to order at 1:02PM. The following Board members were present and absent.

The following board members were present:

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone (remote)

Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee (remote)- arrived late

Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly (remote)

Dighton (1.15), Anabela Powell (remote)- arrived late

Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore (remote)

Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo (remote)

Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich (remote)

Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey (remote)

Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas (remote)

Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond (remote)

Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards (remote)

Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts (remote)

Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson
Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi (remote)

Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson (remote)- arrived late

Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros (remote)

Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky (remote)

Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes (remote)

Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria (remote)

Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell

Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin (remote)

ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond (remote)- arrived late

The following board members were absent:

Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil

Foxborough (1.98), Marc Craig

Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray

Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley

Middleboro (2.79), Mark Germain

North Attleboro (3.26), Tony Morabito

Norton (2.11), Michael Toole

Wrentham (1.92), Janet Angelico

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Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo (remote), Cody Haddad (Halifax Town Administrator)

2. November 15, 2023 Open Session Minutes

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton reviewed Robert's Rules before a vote took place, reminding board members that even if they were not present at a meeting, they can still vote on the minutes from that meeting.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve November 15th, 2023 Open Session minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye
Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards- aye

Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- abstain
Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye
Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye

Motion to approve November 15th, 2023 Minutes passed.

3. Administrator Report, Civil Rights Report, & Financial Reports

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the January 2024 Administrator Report. She reviewed that the majority of triennial findings are completed. At this time, GATRA is waiting for the Civil Rights findings to be approved, but everything is submitted. She will be moving this item to the Civil Rights Report and providing updates there as they are received. Mary Ellen reviewed that the next GATRA public meeting will be held on January 25th, 2024 and asked the Board to share this date with their communities to provide feedback on service.

Mary Ellen reviewed the January 2024 Civil Rights Report and noted that GATRA is compliant with all Civil Rights requirements at this time.

Dan Burgess reviewed the January 2024 Financial Report. He noted that the expenses and revenues were in line with the expectation, with the exception of Brokerage Services and Special Services. These two areas are outpacing the budget in both expenses and revenues. Dan reviewed that because of this, there will be a budget amendment in the future, but that overall, the budget was in good shape.

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Greg Guimond, Marshfield asked Mary Ellen to clarify the Sunday Service roll out date. Mary Ellen confirmed the date of February 5th, 2024.

Joanne Moore, Duxbury asked how GATRA plans to advertise Sunday Service. Mary Ellen said there will be service announcements on GATRA's social media and website. Joanne also noted that GATRA could send a press release to be included in Council on Aging (COA) newsletters or postings.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the January 2024 Administrator Report, Civil Rights Report, and Financial Report. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye
Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards- aye
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- abstain

Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve the January 2024 Administrator Report, Civil Rights Report, and Financial Report passed.

4. Safety Plan

Mary Ellen reviewed that the Safety Plan is required by federal law for GATRA to have in place. This Safety Plan is in addition to the Operational Safety Plan GATRA has in place with the Operator. This Plan outlines bigger picture safety concerns and considerations. The Union is also involved in creating and approving the plan before it gets to the Board. Mary Ellen reviewed that the safety plan committee reviews and approves the Plan in December and then it goes before the Board in December. She noted that there were no major changes from the prior year.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the Safety Plan. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.15), Anabela Powell

Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye

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Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- aye
Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye

Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye

Motion to approve the GATRA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan passed.

5. Halifax Joining GATRA

Mary Ellen reviewed that Halifax is requesting to join GATRA as a community and referenced a letter outlining this request submitted by Halifax. Mary Ellen reviewed that if the Board voted to approve Halifax to join GATRA, the next vote on the agenda would be to revise the weighted vote incorporating them in the overall vote.

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton asked Mary Ellen to review the benefits of Halifax joining GATRA. Mary Ellen discussed that adding another community, especially in that geographical region, promotes resource sharing, connectivity between communities, and better interoperability. Adding Halifax moves GATRA towards a long term goal of connecting more communities and strengthening the service that GATRA can offer in a given geographical region.

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton asked Mary Ellen to discuss challenges involved with Halifax joining GATRA. Mary Ellen reviewed that overall a shortage of drivers and vehicles are an issue. For the time being, Halifax would continue to run service as they currently are and GATRA would assist with funding. In the future, Halifax would be in the pipeline for future vehicles.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve Halifax joining GATRA. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen
DeSimone- aye
Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.15), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- aye

Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye



Motion to accept Halifax as a new GATRA community passed.

6. Revision to Weighted Vote

Mary Ellen introduced the Revised Weighted Vote and reviewed that as a new community, Halifax would be assigned a vote of 1.00. Once they are assessed, their weight would be adjusted based on the assessment.

Kevin Dumas, Mansfield asked why the weighted vote is based on Fiscal Year (FY) 22 assessments. Mary Ellen explained that the weighted vote is always based on a delayed FY based on when GATRA receives funding and the most current assessments available.

Patti Waitkevich, Kingston asked a clarifying question about the assessment dollar amounts. Mary Ellen reviewed that this is the amount that is paid by the community to GATRA for services.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the revised weighted vote. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye	Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee- aye	Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye	Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Dighton (1.15), Anabela Powell- aye	Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye	Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye	Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye	Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye	Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O’Connell- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye	Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye	ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- aye	

Motion to revise the weighted vote passed.

7. Reminder for OML and COI Certificates

Mary Ellen reminded the Board to turn in Open Meeting Law Certificates and Conflict of Interest Certificates to Kylie Araujo if they have not already done so for GATRA’s record.

8. Adjourn

Mayor O’Connell reviewed that the next Board meeting is March 20th, 2024.

A motion was made and 2nd to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye	Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee- aye
	Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye

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Dighton (1.15), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond- aye
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- aye
Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi- aye

Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye

Motion to adjourn the meeting passed.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- 1.17.2024 GATRA Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 11.15.23 GATRA Advisory Board Open Session Minutes
- January 2024 Administrator's Report
- January 2024 Civil Rights Report
- January 2024 Financial Report
- GATRA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan- December 2023
- Halifax Community Request Letter
- Revised Weighted Vote- Revised 1.17.24

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