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# Amesbury

## Traffic and Transportation Committee

### Special Meeting Minutes

Date: January 11, 2022  
Start: 7:09 PM Virtual Meeting  
Attendees: Lauren Tirone, Robert Desmarais, Christopher Falcos, and Christine Miller.

### New Business

- Modification in the MVRTA Bus Route #51 by Angela Cleveland.
  - Angela, who is the Director of Community and Economic Development for the City, was in attendance. According to Angela, she and the Mayor have been talking to Noah Berger, who is the Executive Director of the Merrimack Valley Transit Authority, since approximately the summer in reference to the possibilities to make changed to Route 51. Through the Age Friendly Amesbury efforts it was recognized that Route 51 did not serve Heritage Towers, which was a surprise because that is one of the City's most vulnerable and needful populations for the bus route. Angela showed the old bus route which started at the MVRTA station off of Elm Street, comes down to the rotary to Friend Street to in front of City Hall then took a left onto School Street where it then went right onto Sparhawk Street. From there it went down Sparhawk to Highland Street and then to the Amesbury Health Center. We suggested that the MVRTA that the bus, instead of taking a right onto Sparhawk Street, that it continue down Main Street to Wells Avenue, where it would take a right. This would still allow it to serve the health center, and actually would place it at the actual main entrance to the health center. After coming up Wells Ave it would then take a left onto Highland Street and meet Rt. 110. So after an investigation and internal review that MVRTA agreed that this would be a good modification because in addition to meeting the needs of Heritage Towers, it would also meet the needs of some businesses and schools along Main Street to include Our Neighbor's Table, a couple of café's, the dollar store, Post Office, the Middle School and the Sparhawk School. Angela said that when they looked at this change the MVRTA suggested a couple of changed that need the approval of the Traffic & Transportation Committee and the DPW. The first change according to Angela would be on the corner of Main Street and Wells Avenue. The is a concern over the overhang of some trees over the Main Street portion of the roadway in front of 222 Main Street, and the MVRTA has asked that the City clear that back a little. In addition due to the turning radius of the bus, there is a need for No Parking Here to Corner signs on either side of the street that are approximately 45 feet on

Wells Ave from the intersection of Main Street to be able to take a right onto Wells Avenue and also coming down Wells Avenue to Main Street being able to take a left. So two signs total on either side of Wells on the Main Street side. The other end of Wells Avenue at the intersection of Highland is very similar, and MVRTA is asking for the same No Parking signage on that end (approximately 45 feet in from Highland on Wells Ave). The bus stop would be on Wells Ave at the intersection of Goddard Avenue, which is directly in front of the Health Center entrance on Wells Avenue. To accommodate for inbound traffic coming down Wells Ave from Highland they are asked for trees between 12 and 20 Wells to be cut back so there is no overhang and scratching of the bus from the branches. The bus will load and unload passengers from that side of the street at the bus stop and hopefully a bus shelter, which would be the first for the City beyond the MVRTA station itself. So it would be four No Parking signs to be installed and the MVRTA would install a bus stop sign. Angela then asked if there were any questions.

- Rob asked Angela if there was any reason they did not use Morrill Place. Angela thought that they said it was a one-way street. Rob said it was not, however it may be a little tight at the Highland Street side. Rob stated that Morrill is more commercial as opposed to Wells Avenue. Rob did make notifications but made the observation that no one from Wells Ave was in attendance to the meeting. Angela told Rob that she was not exactly sure of their criteria, but that the City had actually proposed a different route and that they would come down Carpenter Street, however the MVRTA had explored all the options in that area such as Carpenter, Greenwood, Morrill Place and Wells Ave. The ultimate goal was to meet the needs of the Health Center since there are people who get on and off at that stop.
- Chris stated that the thought this was a great idea because he lives on Sparhawk Street and he always sees people getting dropped off over there and going down Main Street so I am assuming it is a lot of people going to the housing authority. Angela agreed and said it is not very often that they make changes to their routes, so it is a big deal to them. Angela said they are working with Caitlyn Thayer the City's Communications Director to make a very big deal out of this including a ride free day so we can encourage people to ride and do a joint promotion program so there would be flyers in Heritage Towers and all of the businesses along Sparhawk to ensure that there is a big buzz about not only the free ride day but the change in the route. Chris asked for a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Rob made the motion with Lauren 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes. The motion passed.

Next meeting scheduled for January 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Rob made a motion to adjourn with meeting with Christine 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.