

March 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Ben Franklin Transit Citizens Advisory Network

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Kreutz at 6:00 PM on March 16, 2026.

We met at the BFT Administration Building.

A. Attendance:

Present:

Dennis Kreutz, Bernie Vinther, Frank Cuta, Erik Watkins and Laurie Price.

Absent:

Bill Barlow and Brooklyn Hufstader

Excused:

Brandon Harbo

BFT Staff in attendance:

Pauline Escalera CEO Representative

B. Minutes of our February meeting - Frank

Laurie Price made the motion and Erik Watkins seconded that they be accepted as distributed and the motion passed.

C. Report of BFT Board meeting March 12.

1. Dennis and Frank reported on the meeting last week. We had an excellent discussion of what transpired including the Safety and Security Overview:  
on-board vehicle conflicts seem to be mostly fare oriented.  
How to deal with conflicts in bad situations stressed  
How to use verbal SWAT to diffuse the situation.  
One of the BFT board members specifically asked that they come back and report some real numbers regarding occurrences of serious conflicts.
2. The independent contractor investigating recent financial/administrative issues will be giving a final report at the April BFT Board meeting.
3. We discussed the live video sentry equipment currently undergoing testing. Dennis, having some experience with such equipment, pointed out its possible shortcomings.
4. A big issue which again raised its head and created some CAN discussion was destination less riders and fare evaders and whether or not BFT should stop charging fares. Seems that the BFT Board favors not letting riders get something for nothing and the CAN favors giving the taxpayer what they have paid for, but it is a complex issue.

D. Old and New Business:

1. CAN will put together a position paper on the fare/no fare issue.
2. CAN discussed and agreed that CAN Members would be prepared to provide input during the April CAN Meeting to discuss BFT Safety and Security related issues that they are aware of to determine if there is a need to relay that information to BFT Staff for consideration.

E. Recruitment Committee:

1. We need the names of recommended potential new recruits to fill vacancies on the CAN by April 2 in order for them to be approved by the BFT Board at their April 9 meeting. Frank and Bill are working on it. If not completed by then this will be addressed in the April CAN Meeting.

F. CAN Member Comments:

1. Lauri Price expressed her appreciation to the BFT Transit organization for providing a paratransit van and having supportive presence at the "Autism Journey" held at the fairgrounds.

G. The next BFT Board Meeting is on April 9.  
Dennis will represent the CAN.

Our next CAN meeting will be on April 20.

Minutes submitted by  
Frank Cuta, secretary