

Hanover Bike/Pedestrian Committtee (HBPC)
Minutes Oct. 4 2012

Attendees: Tim Cox, Doug Deaett, Dave Dostal, Scot Drysdale (chair), Sloane Mayor, Barbara McIlroy (temp scribe), Hugh Mellert, Carol Weingeist, Joanna Whitcomb

Guests: Sam Burdick (a new resident from Madison WI, bike mechanic and enthusiast), Lisa Johnson (Hovey neighborhood) and Bob Eliason (Verona neighborhood), three student observers (and one parent)

ACTION ITEMS, before next meeting:

- Thank Peter Kulbacki for completion of Park Street new sidewalks and bike lanes (Scot will draft and circulate before sending)
- Schedule a meeting with Peter Kulbacki at DPW (Scot)
- Schedule meeting with Julia Griffin (after talking to PK). Scot, see below.
- Schedule meeting for HBPC with the Select Board, sometime in November (Scot)
- Talk to various organizations about potential for bike hangers: various parties (see below)
- Finalize and circulate the Rte 10 proposal: Dave D (and Barbara)

Minutes: Doug D, with second by Carol W, made a motion to approve the September 2012 minutes, as circulated and edited earlier by email, was accepted unanimously.

Announcements:

NH/VT Candidate Meeting: Vital Communities' Transportation Management Association and its Municipal Network have arranged a *meeting with transportation focus for all local candidates* for VT/NH state houses. It will be held at the Kilton Library in West Lebanon, *October 22, from 7-9 pm*. Candidates will be asked to focus on these questions: (1) what is the biggest transportation challenge facing our region? (2) What is the role of state government in addressing that issue?

Neighborhood Rezoning Public Meeting: On Saturday October 13 from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Ray School, the Hanover Planning Board has scheduled an opportunity for residents to discuss ideas and concerns about neighborhood zoning proposals. It was noted that this is where we might raise some bike / pedestrian issues to better guide future developments.

Safe Routes to School: Public meeting scheduled for 9am Oct 20 at the Ray School. And on Tuesday Oct, 9 there is a site visit for Girl Brook options, at 8:30 am.

Carolyn Report: Bike lane / traffic sharing signs are now posted on Park Street.

Followup on last meeting. Scot asked Peter Kulbacki about the missing sidewalk on Courier, beside C&A pizza, and got the following response (currently, a crosswalk to nowhere):

This was discussed in great detail at the planning board hearings for Visual Arts and 4 Currier projects. The reason for the lack of sidewalk is that there is not right-of-way width to add a sidewalk on the east side of Courier. The owners of C & A wanted the the Town to assume all liability, for not only the public (which we would) but also for ice falling off their property which we can't. I offered a number of solutions, but our insurance ultimately indicated they would not cover us. Which prevented the sidewalk from being built.

Sidewalks in Neighborhoods.

General Observations: In past, neighbors approached the Select Board for help with sidewalk and safety measures. Some years ago, there was a queue for such measures, but no one has heard about it recently. There has been some resistance to more sidewalks since it implies additional DPW staff and snowplow equipment. The recently adopted (2012) Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan notes several areas with incomplete or needed sidewalks; Verona is one street and a part of Hovey was another. It was noted that both bike lanes and sidewalks are considered very expensive to install.

Hovey Lane: Lisa Johnson, a concerned mother of two middle-school school students, presented information about problems with through-traffic on Hovey/Buell roads. Despite several traffic calming measures, cars still cut through and travel at speeds unsafe for the many school children and other pedestrians who must use the road for foot-travel. Winter is especially dangerous for these people due to snow piles. The ideal for Johnson would be a pedestrian path, separated from the road. She noted the lack of any crosswalks and she observed that speed bumps installed earlier had been removed (unofficially). Discussion centered on 1) determine the level of concern in the neighborhood about safety issues, 2) engage all neighbors to determine extent of interest/support and any contribution of ROW for walkways, and (3) examine the possibility of more serious speed bumps as one safety measure, such as speed tables on Dulac St in Lebanon which seems to reduce speeds to 15mph. A question arose as to possibility of bike lane there. The committee suggested that an informal measure of users (bikes, pedestrians and cars) and time of day would help complete the picture.

Verona Neighborhood: Bob Eliason noted that his neighborhood has a very high density of residents living in three condos: Brook Hollow, The Courtyard and Willow Springs. These condos generate many pedestrians, and further there is a school bus stop at Fairview Road. A pedestrian cut-through exists through the Courtyard from Verona to High Streets, used by many of the residents to N and E of that corner (Verona / Willow Springs), but there are no sidewalks beyond this cut-through. A few months ago, Bob presented a proposal to the Select Board for sidewalks and cross walks in the neighborhood.

The committee suggested that Bob get formal support from the three condo associations/boards for some sort of pedestrian walkways (not a specific proposal) and determine level of concern elsewhere in the neighborhood. It was suggested that we get some sort of a cost estimate from Peter Kulbacki for this proposal, that the HBPC could endorse it and that it would be a part of the HBPC presentation to the Select Board in November. It was suggested that Bob send letter to Select Board outlining concerns, with copy to the HBPC -- that is to Scot. Some discussion of whether an actual petition is needed?

Safe Routes to School Sloane and Joanna reported on several upcoming events: Oct 9, a site visit to consider the path potential in the Girl Brook corridor; rain date for bike/walk to school (Oct 10?), and a meeting for interested public is set for Oct 20 at 9 am at the Ray School. Preliminary data reveals that 750 students (Ray/Richmond) live within a 2 mile radius of the schools, and 50% of students live within the bikable area. The SRTS steering committee meets regularly, and is currently conducting a survey of other towns. The town has a \$17,000 grant for the plan and engineering design components.

The HBPC committee noted we see an increased need for sidewalks in town. It is

probably time for town to 'bite the bullet' and budget better for these needs. It was noted that the parking committee budget is in excess of \$1 million; some of this could go to sidewalks, as everyone, even drivers, uses them. Perhaps we should discuss this concern with Julia Griffin.

Report on Rt. 10 project: David Dostal reported that he attended a recent Lebanon Bike/Ped Committee meeting, that a few minor changes were made to the report and that the LBPC has signed onto the report. The corridor has many residents. Next steps are to fix a few matters such as population estimate in Hanover, add the bus stop data from the 2008 bus study, see what we can learn about ROW, learn about various sources of funding (aside about new transportation bill: it no longer has automatic 10% for betterment projects like sidewalks and bike paths, but does allow funds to be spent for those purposes), contact parties of interest listed at previous meetings – this latter, a responsibility for both Lebanon and Hanover Bike / Ped committees,

Bike Parking Structures: Sloane reported on several vertical bike parking devices, including one made in VT (thanks to pointer from Carol Weingeist). This simple wall hook for bikes can be made in several colors, has an optional cable for security, and is very inexpensive compared to other such devices. Sloane will investigate the cost for order of 30 (for starters), with colors. Sam wondered if the width of the support bar may be too tight for certain mountain bikes, and Sloane will investigate possibility of altering this width. A building with roof overhang seemed like the best starting place; otherwise, an awning of some sort would be an added complication and cost.

The group discussed several locations for initial installation, assuming we plan to go forward, and some offered to explore possibilities: Nugget Theater (Sloane), Dartmouth – perhaps the Alumni Gym (Joanna / Hugh), CoOp (Scot). Other locations were town hall, schools, if this gets off the ground. Sam wondered if the bus shelters could be fitted with exterior awning, and allow vertical supports. We should have someone investigate this possibility with Van Chestnut at Advanced Transit, but had no volunteers at the meeting.

North College Street: Joanna reported that the DPW would prefer a 3' buffer and a 5' sidewalk, which implies a cut into the hill with some sort of retaining wall. Joanna noted there is a bit more time to determine details as landscape planning is now on-going for the building across the street and this stretch of road will be included in that plan. A public meeting on this will probably happen in the next six weeks; Joanna will keep us posted. It was noted that a narrow bike lane might be possible, since the road is pretty wide.

Agenda for discussion with Peter Kulbacki:

Sidewalk considerations: Vernona, Hovey, West Street, Lebanon Street (beyond Storrs). Route 10 / S Main.

Next meeting Nov 1:

Report on meeting with Peter Kulbacki
Discuss Prepare a presentation for the Select Board in Nov.
Sidewalk focus / Bike storage
Educational component / safety
Safe Routes to School.

Other items for future meetings:

- 1) Further discussion of Lebanon St. from Sand Hill to Rt. 120. (Doug)
- 2) Discussion of Boulder, CO "Bike-box like" design (Bill Young)