

Hanover Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee

Minutes September 4, 2014

Present – Doug Deaett, Dave Dostal, Mike Evans, Barbara McIlroy, Hugh Mellert, Athos Rassias, Bill Young.

Committee Structure:

Minutes: Approved minutes – excellent minutes.

Committee structure: Dave can no longer serve as chairman. Bill Young is willing to chair, but would need V chair. He suggested that a small ‘steering committee’ may be in order to help coordinate activities.

Secretary. Athos suggested we have rotation of secretary among members.

Agenda too long – Agenda needs adjustment --- a front burner, back burner approach might help in dealing with agenda items. *Bill will bring sketch of agenda meeting structure to next meeting.*

Meeting time – question about meeting hour, and length of meetings. *Dave will draft questionnaire to others on this.*

Need vice chair.

Need to discuss secretary role. Barbara will record minutes for September, but can not take on the duty as a monthly commitment. The committee did not make a firm decision on Athos’s idea of rotating assignment for HBPC members.

Announcements:

Reminder 9/9 – Safe ped / bikes in Concord. We think Scot is attending this and offered ride if anyone else wants to attend.

Reminder: 9/24 – state level bike/ped staftey conference.

Valley Road Update:

So far, still the town still is waiting for signs for the advisory lanes. Mike has a vehicle counting box on Valley Road and is still collecting data; the box will continue in place for a bit longer now that school is open.

Safety:

Letters to Editor The recent letter to editor exchange about bikes in downtown ended a bit uncomfortably, due to a name-calling slur of the HBPC (namby pamby). The topic still needs real attention. The group agreed that *in education for bicyclists – the main point is safety and the law.*

Stencils for bike / skate-board safety at key sidewalk crosswalks -- Mike Chase says DPW has a heavy list for Allen street, Main and curb-cuts for start. *Mike Evans will try to find out the about paint for stencils AND for Valley Road.* Mike will ask if we can do the paint ourselves.

Enforcement for downtown sidewalks: this is difficult. It was noted that sometimes just a comment from a pedestrian is sufficient.

Biking on Sidewalks – It is OK to bike on campus sidewalks, BUT, not off campus, so somehow this message needs to be made clear.

Education for new Dartmouth students: Mike pointed out that every fall there are nearly 2000 new residents (freshmen students) who don't know the 'rules'. The topic of posters for college bicyclists was raised. *Bill suggested that Hugh meet with the college (AKA Joanna Whitcomb) to educate students on policy, which Hugh agreed to do.* Hugh thought social media might work better than posters with this generation. Doug is concerned about near-miss incidents, as we have no way to keep a record of this sort of thing. This is certainly the time to reach out to new students.

Cross walk lights

The town has blinking crosswalks that will be installed at Carter / Lebanon and also at S Main/Currier (as the HBPC suggested). *Bill will draft a letter to neighbors on corners of the two intersections to give them a heads up.* The group felt that a letter is sufficient, that neighbors won't be upset with the installation. We are not sure when they will be installed.

W Wheelock

The Hanover planning office has set up a working group to help implement the recommendations of the design charette that happened some months back. Several members of the HBPC attended that early session. *Dave will follow up on this to see about a representative from the HBPC to the subgroup.* The subgroup will make a list of topics that might be good changes in the zoning ordinance to help implement a plan for that section of town.

Free Bike Program

Tim Cox and Scot Drysdale will work with Roger Lohr on this idea.

Crosswalks

Barbara will contact Carolyn Radish about how to insert the topic of crosswalks into our long to-do list of bike / sidewalk improvements.

Lyme Road MUP

The status of this idea is not known. Not sure if Lyme is to be re-paved in the next year. Not known where Carolyn / Peter are on this. *Bill offered touch base with Peter K to see where things stand on this, and also ask about Carolyn and scope of work for deadlines and timelines.* This committee didn't agree with the Safe Route To School proposal for this section of Lyme Road.

N College Street / sidewalk / bikelanes

No information about where this construction stands. Mike noted that college has done a lot of underground utility work, but project seems to be on hold for now.

Ray School Expansion / bike infrastructure

Doug – hopes bike path will happen on N side of school, but not known if bike plan for school is final. The site development phase 2 discussions should be happening soon. Vicki Smith may know where things stand on this and *Bill will talk to Vicki Smith and Peter Kulbacki about the bike path and crosswalk.*

Lebanon Street

The lane drop sidewalk from Gile to town still not known. *Bill will ask Peter Kulbacki about where things stand.*

CoOp renovation

There is no information about bike connection to rear of CoOp to hockey rink. *The connection link would need the college support for this project.*

Verona Sidewalks / Crossing

While this sidewalk was given a high priority in our plan's implementation list, there has been no followup on this. Sloan Mayor was going to contact the Brook Hollow homeowners about a neighborhood meeting, but we have not heard more about this since she stepped down from HBPC. The topic seems to be in limbo for now.

Parking Fund

Doug would like to have the HBPC pick up on the Parking Fund idea.

Next meeting Thursday 4pm October 2.