

Hanover Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee Minutes of November 6, 2014

Present – Doug Deaett, Dave Dostal, Mike Evans, Barbara McIlroy, Bill Young, Hugh Mellert, Scot Drysdale, Joanna Whitcomb and guest Erica Wygonik.

1. Minutes: Barbara moved to approve the minutes of Oct. 4, Dave seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Social Media: We've set up a Facebook page called Hanover Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. Bill agreed to monitor the site. It was felt that someone should post something once or twice a month. Joanna could post a link to the Google Dashboard for the monthly minutes and agenda, if that makes sense.

Google Drive: Is a location that we can post the HBPC Project Dashboard as well as a place to store reports, minutes, agendas. HBPC has a gmail account so this will allow us to store stuff in the cloud.

3. Report from Chair Bill Young:

- Meeting Thursday, Dec 4 @ 4 pm Pete Kulbacki guest
- Dashboard project and calendar tools
- Caution regarding raising liability in letters or comments on behalf of HBPC – don't use dangerous, treacherous, etc.
- Cultivate & recruit new members that represent different areas of town to help with the many projects on the list (Erica Wygonik lives on Leb St.)

4. Report on Bikes on Downtown Sidewalks: There were a number of email exchanges about biking on sidewalks since the last meeting. Bill Young met with Mike Evans and Pete Kulbacki to discuss this issue. They agreed to try four sandwich boards with Mike's proposed design to discourage bikers from cycling on the sidewalk. Mike will lead this initiative. The HBPC unanimously agreed that this is a priority project and funds should be spent to do this.

5. Ray School Plan: There is a new site plan proposed that will reduce two curb cuts to one cut. Once on the school property car traffic will be separated from the bus route. There also will be a bike path around the school and there will be a safe crossing from the neighborhood path to the school. Outstanding issues include:

- Hemlock/Reservoir Road intersection (Pete K agreed to address this when the site work is done at the school (summer 2015?))
- Location of covered bike racks
- Dresden Road fence needs to be removed to make sure the bike boulevard works to connect the schools

Bill Young attended the Planning Board meeting where the site plan was reviewed on a preliminary basis.

6. Valley Road Advisory Lanes: General sense from a dozen folks walking during the count day was positive. The drivers are more sentient. It's much easier to see pedestrians at night. There were also a couple of people who felt that it was less safe because cars stay in the middle of the road instead of to the far lane. Parking has also been an issue because there are new "no parking" signs. This will require education because people attending hockey, football, basketball games have been parking in this location for years.

Post-installation surveys have been sent to ~ 50 homes, about 6 surveys have been returned. Mike is analyzing the speed data. We agreed to share the info when it's available.

There was a discussion about how we need to better address the transition from one bike/ped treatments to another. It's not a big deal on Valley Road where it's relatively quiet. It will be more of an issue on Rip Road. It was agreed that we need to pay closer attention to either ends of roads.

7. Crosswalk Recommendations. Barbara met with Carolyn to discuss crosswalks. Her brief report is on the Google Doc Dashboard. Several intersections were omitted but will be added to the draft. These include Greensboro Road and Route 120; West Street at West Wheelock; and Park Street at Valley Road (current light only on at night time.)

It was noted that the Greensboro intersection might be good to consider if/when the Sand Hill MUP rises to the top of the DPW list. How we prioritize these crosswalks is a challenge. Erica will work with Barbara on crosswalk prioritization, as she has some experience with the topic. We should have an updated list of crosswalks before the December meeting with Peter Kulbacki, as some of these might be a quick fix.

8. West Wheelock Re-zoning: The current version of the re-zoning proposal now includes a provision for protected bike shelters for residents, but the HBPC thought that one sheltered space for every four units was too low. One space per unit seemed like a minimum, and some members thought there should be one space per bedroom. It was noted the current proposal would permit apartment units with as many as four bedrooms, and that apartments could have as many as five unrelated individuals. The group thought we should have some rough idea of how many bikes are currently used by the residents of the neighborhood. The zoning proposal will soon be forwarded to the Planning Board for consideration. The HBPC may need to send a letter to the Planning Board to support and document our interest with the proposal. The HBPC committee supports sheltered parking for bikes, and improved safety in the neighborhood for bikes and pedestrians; further these topics are specifically cited in our 2012 Plan.

Next Meeting is on Thursday, December 4th from 4-5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Whitcomb & Barbara McIlroy