

Hanover Bike / Pedestrian Committee (HBPC) Minutes, March 5, 2015

Present: Bill Young (chair), David Dostal, Erica Wygonik, Barbara McIlroy, Hugh Mellert.

Guests: Chief Charlie Dennis, Sgt Brad Sargent.

1. February Minutes

Minutes for February were approved, however the HBPC report to Select Board (without the Select Board comments) will be appended to these minutes – right after the discussion of the presentation in part 4 of the February minutes. Bill will determine who responded to his letter about plowing the MUP on Medical Center Drive, since it got plowed within a short time of his letter. We understand that Hanover did NOT plow it (the path is in Lebanon).

2. Public Input

Chief Charlie Dennis noted his first impressions of issues in Hanover: the high density of pedestrians, compact downtown, and the students. He expressed special concern about Dartmouth students and pedestrians at night, since lighting is not uniform; sometimes pedestrians and bicyclists are not visible. He mentioned the crosswalk at the Black Arts Center in particular, also a HBPC concern. He also observed how the crosswalk paint has disappeared; we noted that the crosswalks get re-painted every year, but salt, snow plowing and grit help them fade. We discussed bicyclist safety with special concern for those riding in S Main Street traffic, with the added safety complication with parked cars – drivers back into the bike lane, and some parked vehicles are really large and obstruct driver's ability to check traffic when backing out of a parking space.

Brad Sargent will now be the Hanover PD representative to the Bike/Ped committee, since Mike Evans has moved on to the Thetford PD. It was noted how helpful it is to have Police Department representation on our committee, as it helps us cut through red-tape and move forward on plans. Brad's email contact will be shared with committee.

The HBPC is an advisory group, but we do secure some funding for non-vehicular transportation projects from the \$5 fee on vehicle registration – amounting to about \$35,000 each year. This funding has been used for cross walk lights, paving of bike lanes, bike-safe storm-drain grates.

3. Chair Updates

Calendar Review- The next meeting is April 2. The HBPC report for the Hanover Annual Report is due by end of March. Meeting dates for July/August were not discussed.

Select Board HBPC Presentation Feb 9 Follow Up is under the February Minutes discussion, above.

Route 120 Storrs Road to DHMC/Gile Tract Housing. See discussion below.

HBPC Facebook pages: Bill has updated the HBPC facebook account.

Meeting with Peter Kulbacki: Dave and Bill met with Peter on March 2. Notes from this discussion have been shared with HBPC members. See below for more.

Projects and Work Group Up Dates: Bill encouraged HBPC members to see our Google Drive for list / updates for projects. The West Wheelock zoning proposal will be discussed at the March 10 Planning Board meeting for a final vote by that Board. Voting on re-zoning would be on Town Meeting May 11th, during the day-time ballot voting.

4. Walk Your Bike Signs for Main Street

The signs have arrived. There was considerable discussion of 'walk your bike' on S Main street, and sign placement. Brad wondered if the signs should be at eye level, as opposed to sidewalk placement. He will work with DPW and HPD to get the signs positioned. It was felt the signs should be at key corners; we were not sure which ones count as 'key'. There was also considerable discussion about how to educate students about this. The signs should go up soon in late March or early April, as winter weather is supposed to end soon, and the bike racks should be back on the sidewalks. We agreed that 'educate and encourage' should precede 'enforcement' on this topic. Hugh will investigate how to get the word out on the campus; he noted that the *Vox Daily* is a quick and easy way to get the word out to both students and staff. There is also a Hanover List Serve where this notice could be shared with residents (and the town also has a list serve). Once the signs are up, HBPC members are encouraged to comment to sidewalk-bicyclists about policy. There was also discussion about a letter to editor on this topic. It wasn't clear when actual enforcement should go into effect; there wasn't clear enthusiasm for this. We will wait and see how things go with new signage and educational outreach.

Chief Dennis suggested we reach out to freshmen in the fall term, and try other means again in the Spring. The Hanover PD and campus security teams will coordinate on bike safety.

5. HBPC wishes to see plans

Members felt that the HBPC should have a chance to see the plans for S Main repaving and Lyme Road MUP that are going to be done later this year. We will invite Carolyn Radish to the April meeting to discuss some of the details of these two projects, as we understand that DPW is working with her on design for these projects.

6. Advisory Lane on Valley Road

Since advisory lanes are not yet widely used, and Peter Kulbacki was told 'you are on your own' by US DOT, it wasn't clear if /when any other streets might get this treatment in the near term. Both Hovey Lane and Rip Road are potential candidates. Bill felt that when the time seems right for another Advisory Lane, it would be good to have a neighborhood representative on our committee to help with outreach, education and implementation details. Bill will talk to Brad about the traffic counts for Valley Road, since the earlier effort failed. We agreed that both local schools and college should be in session so that we get representative data for typical traffic flow. The lines will be re-painted this spring.

7. Route 120 / Greensboro / Buck Road / Gile Housing

Even if the MUP is not to be funded by TAP funding in the next few years, the section from Greensboro to Buck seems a separate issue and needs immediate attention. The HBPC would like to facilitate a discussion with key parties to find some means of resolution of what appears to be a stalemate. Parties include planners from Hanover and Lebanon, the Lebanon Bike/Ped committee, the NH DOT, the Regional Planning Commission, Gile community representatives, Julia Griffin and Peter Kulbacki. We understand that Twin Pines has some funding for this, and the Hanover DPW will help with installation.

The committee observed:

- **We still really like the idea of a lane drop from Greensboro to Buck Road**
- The Gile residents still need a safe way to walk into Hanover
- Lebanon expansions near Centera (Altaris project is latest) are on-going and will greatly impact traffic flow in Hanover. It is our understanding that the Lebanon design for this intersection was not discussed with Hanover, nor did Hanover agree with that arrangement.
- The bus stops are not very near the main intersection
- Pedestrians already walk on Rte 120 with nothing to protect them

- There still is no safe pedestrian crosswalk at Greensboro / Lebanon St light and intersection, and pedestrians still cross these busy roads.

We don't want to see this can kicked down the road, so to speak.

8. Safety at Night Event

Dave and Bill will work on a vision statement, a detailed plan, finalize a name for the event (several are under consideration), determine dates (in May), explore location (college Green is desired), a budget, and key collaborators. Hugh suggested involving the campus event planner Jim Alberghini to help with logistics. The HBPC will have a leadership role. Dave will approach vendors to see if they might have a reduced rate for package deal on bicycle lighting. There are possible sources for funding handouts and assorted reflective 'swag' for participants. Our Share-The-Road flyer could be circulated.

8. HBPC Annual Report

Erica offered to correct a few typos, Barbara will try to tighten a few sections. Bill, Hugh and Barbara reviewed a few of the sections and Barbara will invite Joanna to help with this as well. Bill will correct and re-circulate the report to the committee within the next week, so that it is done well before the deadline.

9. Mayors' Challenge from US Department of Transportation. Safer People/Safer Streets.

We ran out of time and did not get to discuss this proposal. It sounds interesting.

Next Meeting - April 2

We need members to RSVP. Bill will encourage each of them to make a special effort to attend our meetings.