

FINAL

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019
CITY HALL, WEST MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Smith (Chair); John Kelleher (Vice-Chair); Alan Schnur; Marie McCormick; Sarah Crysl Akhatar

MEMBERS ABSENT: Megan Chapman; Erling Heistad (City Council); Kenneth Warren (Friends of Northern Rail Trail); Clifton Below (Alt); Shane Smith (Alt. Council Representative)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner); Jim Donaldson (Director of Public Works)

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 5, 2019

Amendments: Add Karl Kemnitzer; Ariel Arwen (Hartland Energy Committee); Pat McGovern (Mgr. Lebanon Greenway); Rainie Kelly (Former Sustainable Lebanon); Barbara Hirai (LEAC Streetlight – Ward 1); Margaret Campbell (UVD and Lebanon Resident) as attendees to the meeting; Page 1, line 25 insert “West” in front of Lebanon; Page 1, line 28: replace “rail trail” with “Mascoma River Greenway”; Motion to Adjourn change “Ms. Owens” to “Ms. McCormick”;

Moved by Mr. Kelleher to approve the February 5, 2019 Minutes as amended. Seconded by Ms. Crysl Akhatar.

**The vote on the MOTION was (5-0).*

3) OTHER BUSINESS: *(Several Future Agenda Items and Other Business Agenda Items preceded Study Items)*

A. Discussion with Director of Public Works Jim Donison – DPW Update:

Director of Public Works Jim Donison updated the Committee on several DPW projects including:

- Street sweeping bids are going out this month and Street Sweeping would begin around April 1
- The coordination of street and sidewalk sweeping
- Sharrow Painting - shared auto/bike lanes
- Street/road painting projects not finished last year will be completed in 2019
- Street/road painting policies

Associate Planner Rebecca Owens provided background information about several of the projects.

Mr. Schnur and other Committee members asked about the DOT reducing speed limits on City streets and around Coburn Park.

B. Miracle Mile Crosswalk – Funding/Design Status:

Ms. Owens provided the Committee with an update about crosswalks at the Miracle Mile. Ms. Crystal Akhatar asked about the corporate responsibility of Price Chopper concerning transit and crosswalk access and safety in the area. Mr. Smith asked about the previous application denied for funding work on Miracle Mile.

C. Streetlights vs. Crosswalks – GIS Review of Locations:

Mr. Donison said that the DPW is putting together advertising bids for streetlights. He asked the Committee for suggestions about where to put streetlights near crosswalks and spoke about the LEAC policy to have streetlights at every crosswalk. A discussion took place addressing the subject including specific locations and innovative ways to provide streetlights.

Ms. Owens also spoke about the long term COT and CSO plans regarding streetlights and the contour of streets and sidewalks for biking in the City.

Several Committee members asked Mr. Donison about the DPW putting in crosswalks along the Miracle Mile as an interim solution to the problem and what the priorities would be to do the project.

4) STUDY ITEMS:

A. Updates from Other Boards:

Ms. Owens noted events coming up with committees:

- The Mascoma River Greenway Communication Group students will be at the City Council meeting on March 6 and the State is considering budgeting substantial funds for the Westboro Yard and the Mascoma Greenway Extension.
- The consultants for the mall tunnel design project (30% completion) will meet with the City Council on May 1 and have a public meeting on May 2.
- Education & Encouragement Programming: The Bike Rodeo (the Greenway Ride) will take place on June 1.

B. PBAC Priorities per Master Plan – Champ Reporting & Actions/Strategies Review:

Ms. McCormick led a discussion reviewing the first-round of the Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee report to the Master Plan and provided updates on how the City is doing in several areas. She said the job of the Committee is to decide which 15 actions/strategies they want to report on in the first round and the unique projects related to each action/strategy. The following 15 strategies/actions were discussed:

1. Address walking and biking ability on conjunction with traffic planning
2. Encourage and support transportation alternatives to a single occupancy vehicles, including mass transit, pedestrian and bicycle paths and facilities.
3. Require transit and support facilities during development and site plan review.
4. Develop a citywide transportation master plan.
5. Continue to work with surrounding communities and the Regional Planning Commission to seek local solutions for regional transportation problems.
6. Manage the growth in traffic volume by promoting alternatives to vehicle trips, such as telecommuting, rideshare and transit use.
7. Cooperate with groups, such as the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, to maintain and extend the existing Rail Trail from Lebanon to West Lebanon,

8. Include five-foot shoulders on City and State bridges and road projects to provide safe bicycle and pedestrian access.
9. Complete the Americans with Disability Act transition plan to ensure the public facilities meet ADA guidelines.
10. Require developers to install bicycle racks, showers, and lockers as part of the site plan approval.
11. Promote safe intersection design for bicyclists/pedestrians and add transit friendly traffic signals.
12. Support the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee in creating a comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle facilities plan which identifies where linkages can be made and additional infrastructure is warranted, both in and outside the City.
13. Promote improved pedestrian facilities throughout the City, including a well maintained, interconnected network of sidewalks, benches, and landscaping that provides shade for pedestrians and are attractive. Add non-obtrusive lighting.
14. Promote safe pedestrian accommodations, including curb extensions where appropriate, at crosswalk locations and segregated sidewalks with landscaped buffers along all major roadways.
15. Provide dedicated bike facilities to allow cyclists to safely travel City roads, including bike lanes and cycle tracks, as well as more bike-focused facilities such as multi-use paths and sharrows (shared lanes).

Ms. Crysl Akhatar said she is troubled that the report is heavily slanted toward prosperous and active people and leisure time activities. She said more emphasis needs to be on enabling people with less resources dealing with basic activities of everyday life.

Ms. Owens said we touched on several topics that speak to the populous addressed by Ms. Crysl Akhatar and need to identify the issues, and provide specific ideas, that we could be added to the list of actions and strategies.

Summarizing the discussion, Ms. McCormick said the committee is in agreement on their list of 15 actions/strategies (with amendments) to use for the first round of reporting but need more examples and details. Ms. Owens added that the initial process is not about making decisions, but rather gaining information.

5) ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Ms. McCormick to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Seconded by Ms. Crysl Akhatar.

**** The vote on the MOTION passed (5-0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Kaufman, Recording Secretary