

City of Essex Junction
Bike/Walk Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2024
APPROVED APRIL 25, 2024

Meeting Attendees: Micah Hagan, Chris Kline, Tacy Lincoln, Russ Miller-Johnson; Michael Giguere, John O'Brien; Susan Grasso (Local Motion); UVM Students working on Senior Capstone Project with the BWAC- Lukas DeSchepper, Robert Frederic, Anthony Adoniou, Michael Giguere, John O'Brien

Meeting Called to Order: 7:10 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: Tacy Lincoln volunteered to take minutes.

Changes to Agenda/Review/Approval of Minutes:

- Changes:
 - Introductions of new Committee members and guests; as well as Chris Yuen, the City's Director of Community Development, who will serve as the liaison between the BWAC and City Council.
 - Chris Yuen added an agenda item: Discussion of the BWAC's interest in becoming involved with the "Walk to Shop" program.

- Minutes from the January 11, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Public to be Heard: No comments.

CCRPC (Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission) Unified Planning

Grant Information Update: In 2018 a formal assessment of the connectivity gap between Susie Wilson Road and Pearl Street by a hired engineering firm resulted in a three million dollar project proposal which was never acted upon. In lieu of the cost of the 2018 proposal, Chris Yuen informed the Committee that he submitted a grant application to secure funding to study interim and less invasive measures to ameliorate the continuing concerns about the safety of this corridor. If awarded the funding, the City would be obligated to contribute a percentage of the total cost of the study. Chris reported that the City was supportive of this endeavor and will keep the Committee updated on the progress of the grant proposal.

UVM Capstone Project: The UVM Engineering Students will focus on improving the safety at the North/Grove street intersection. Additionally, their Capstone project will examine the options for safe cycling and pedestrian connections from the southern end of Grove and North streets to Ivy Lane and the Crescent Connector.

As part of the discussion, Chris Yuen reported that he had been contacted by students from another UVM class who are seeking to engage in a Sustainable Urban Planning project. After discussion, the Committee agreed to propose that this group research, gather data and report on the behavioral patterns of cyclists and pedestrians at key traffic light intersections within the City. The Pearl and South Summit Street intersection was identified as being one that would be of most interest to the Committee (there may be others, as well). Chris will follow up with this group as he will serve as their project sponsor.

Annual Bike/Walk Advisory Committee Report: The Committee must submit the annual summary of activities, accomplishments, events, to the City Council by February 23, 2024. Micah agreed to compose the summary and will send it to Chris Yuen.

Annual Bike/Walk Advisory Committee Presentation to City Council: The Bike/Walk Advisory Committee is scheduled to make a presentation to the City Council on May 22, 2024.

Added Agenda Item: Proposed Partnership Between BWAC and “Walk to Shop”: Chris Yuen informed the Committee that he has been in contact by representatives of the Walk to Shop Program, a Zero Net Vermont initiative that “...seeks to support existing and current walkers to travel more efficiently for necessary short trips by walking instead of driving to their destinations” through the use of a “trolley that serves as an important accessibility tool allowing a greater range of people to make these short shopping trips by walking and having the ability to carry up to 40 lbs. comfortably in one trip.” The trolley retails for \$35 (which is a reduced price). More can be learned about this initiative and the product at <https://vtccc.w3.uvm.edu/walk-to-shop-program/>. Tacy volunteered to contact the Walk to Shop representatives to learn more about their program and product and will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 18 - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 p.m.