



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
BIKE WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

*Online & 2 Lincoln St  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
2026, 7:00 PM*

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**1. MEMBERS PRESENT**

John O'Brien, Russ Miller-Johnson, Lauren Philbrook, Daniel Liguori

**2. OTHERS PRESENT**

Michael Giguere, staff representative; Bryan Davis, CCRPC; Jack Evans, Local Motion

**3. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by John at 7:01 pm.

**4. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

Michael added three additional staff updates. Lauren wanted to discuss the Bicycle Friendly Community webinar, which was added as a sub-topic under the BFC announcement agenda item.

**5. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

a. December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Lauren made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Daniel. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

**6. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Bryan Davis from CCRPC introduced himself, pledging CCRPC as a resource for BWAC.

**7. BUSINESS ITEMS**

a. Upcoming public meetings hosted by BWAC

- Pearl Street Pedestrian Crossing
- Park Street Reconfiguration

Michael gave a brief introduction to each project which have both been presented previously to BWAC. He mentioned that public meetings to present public outreach findings and recommended alternatives will be held for each project, with Pearl Street Pedestrian Crossing taking place during BWAC's 3/12 meeting and Park Street Complete Streets Improvement taking place on 4/9. Additional public outreach is being done for both projects.

b. Discussion of drafted Form-Based Code implementation for Connect the Junction TOD Plan\*

Michael presented Framework's drafted Form-Based Code implementation from Connect the Junction, which includes some recommended changes to the City's Land Development Code. These changes are designed to influence the built environment of the Village Center, Pearl Street, and Park Street corridors to become a more walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly environment. Michael showed some of the technical and architectural recommendations.

Russ asked if this was related to 802 Homes, Michael clarified that it was a separate project. Daniel noted that the focus on active ground floor seemed like the right approach. He commented that the difference between a 9-story building and a 4-5 story building didn't seem too different from a pedestrian or cyclist's perspective, but the ground floor aesthetic is important to focus on. Lauren brought up the number of empty commercial storefronts and expressed concern over requiring more ground floor commercial space. John echoed this but had optimism based on what is happening in South Burlington's City Center with many of their new commercial tenants. Jack mentioned that ground floor does not necessarily need to be commercial to be active, citing the Cathedral Square's living community with a common area on the ground floor.

c. Trustee's Policy Regarding Bike/Walk Advisory Committee\*

John brought up that this policy has not been updated in over a decade. He noted the use of the word “Village” vs “City” and the outdated committee size which has been decreased to six members. Russ mentioned he saw this policy when he first joined. Michael wondered if the responsibilities section should be updated, but most members agreed it was relatively up to date.

Lauren mentioned that BWAC’s role in the Traffic Calming Policy could be added. John proposed a task force to recommend updates to BWAC in April. Daniel and Russ volunteered to assist.

#### **8. MEMBERS UPDATES**

Russ and Lauren mentioned sidewalk plowing quality has been spotty, especially near the schools. John asked if plowing depth had been adjusted, Lauren mentioned that it seems quite high during a storm and then a second pass gets closer to the ground.

John mentioned that he submitted a SeeClickFix ticket for the brick work on the Crescent Connector and said he got a response quickly.

#### **9. STAFF UPDATES**

##### **a. BFC Award Announcement**

Michael mentioned that Essex Junction has been recognized as a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Cyclists. Lauren mentioned an upcoming webinar workshop on 2/25, Jack provided more information on this workshop which is designed to discuss low-hanging fruit improvements for BFC communities.

##### **b. Vermont Walk/Bike Summit (Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> in Bennington)**

Michael mentioned this upcoming event and encouraged BWAC members to reach out if they are interested in attending.

##### **c. Pearl Street West update**

Michael mentioned that the Pearl Street West multimodal improvement project has proceeded to being designed by the City Engineer. He discussed some of the design considerations being discussed internally, including the crosswalk at the Susie Wilson intersection. He asked for feedback from the group on what the most comfortable orientation for the crosswalk would be, noting that 90-degree horizontal displacements are generally discouraged in engineering guidelines.

Russ mentioned that having it oriented straight across seemed preferable. Lauren asked if it’s less dangerous for people to stop before crossing for better visibility. Daniel liked the current straight configuration, as having to turn and look for drivers would require more effort. Jack asked about lighting, Michael mentioned there is not currently a plan to improve lighting.

Bryan pointed out that the red design shortens the crossing distance by approximately 1/3. Michael asked about pavement painting for the crossing, Lauren mentioned that green paint can be slippery. Lauren asked if pedestrians would recognize less common crosswalk paint configurations. Daniel did not feel that an expensive crosswalk would be essential if it’s an expensive feature.

Jack asked about planned pedestrian detours for this project, Michael mentioned that this has not been determined yet but would pass this along to the City Engineer to plan early.

##### **d. Main Street shared use path**

Michael noted that the Capital Review Committee ranked the two alternatives for this project. The committee expressed their excitement to see this project proceeding. Daniel mentioned that connected loops can create a more robust network for cycling, having a positive relationship with the Countryside bike path. Russ was surprised at the cost-saving alternative’s financial savings. Daniel pointed out that additional wayfinding would improve this project as well.

10. **ADJOURN**

Daniel motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Russ. Motion passed unanimously (4-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.