



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – FINAL
APPROVED FEBRUARY 12TH, 2026**

*Online & 2 Lincoln St
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Thursday, December 11th
2025, 7:00 PM*

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MEMBERS PRESENT

John O'Brien, David Achee, Russ Miller-Johnson, Lauren Philbrook

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Giguere (Staff Representative)

CALL TO ORDER

[7:00 PM]

John called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Three staff updates were added by Michael.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

November 13th, 2025

Motion to approve minutes by David, seconded by Lauren. Motion approved by vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No members of the public present online or in person.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Park Street Bicycle Facility updates

Michael provided project updates from the Park Street proposal that had been assembled by the UVM engineering students. Current internal discussions dictate that the project will not alter sidewalks and thus require minimal alterations to provide improvements on a modest budget. The city is considering 3 options to accommodate additional space for bicycle facilities: keep the lanes as they currently are, remove some of the on street parking for cars or to remove all of the current parking spaces. Parking utilization was compiled from Google Street view data, showing that there is minimal usage of most spaces, which has driven the city to consider prioritizing bike infrastructure rather than maintain current configurations.

Lauren says it is still likely to be used by commuters rather than lower confidence bikers in either change in configuration. David also commented that a compromise solution that maintains some parking spaces could be altered by removing on street parking at a later date.

John added concerns about the narrowing of the bike lane immediately before 34 Park street where adjacent traffic is continuous with a green arrow diverting traffic to the connector. This issue is on the radar of the city and has been since the updates in conjunction with the crescent connector project, and may be altered at a later date.

Planning joint meeting with Connecting Colchester

The possibility of hosting a joint meeting with the Colchester biking and walking group was proposed. The group is non-municipal and serves our neighbor that is largely separated by the Essex town borders. Michael proposed a meeting in the springtime similar to the recent joint meeting with the Williston on the Move group which the group indicated that it would be interested in pursuing. While there is not a specific area of interest for us to sightsee at this time we will be discussing possibilities in the future including the intersection of Route 15 and Susie Wilson Road, as well as the stretch on the Northern route out of Essex Junction that passes through the town before entering Colchester.

MEMBERS UPDATES

Lauren brought up the sidewalk plowing as a concern for walkability, as it appears that the plows have been higher which is leaving an inch or two of snow remaining. Russ brought up the possibility that the ground not being frozen is leading the city to not yet remove as much snow.

John updated the group on a conversation with another resident who voiced concerns about the crosswalk at Wilkinson Dr and Tyler Dr, which had previously been discussed by the committee. The possibility of erecting a temporary bulb out with poles was brought up as a possible pilot project in the future pending study pending community interest and the possible implementation of the new Traffic Calming policy, which will be discussed later during this meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

RRFB at Lincoln & Central

The placement of utility poles where the beacon would be installed has presented a challenge for utility installation, which may push the costs of this project above the budget of the committee. We will be awaiting the word from Green Mountain Power which maintains the poles before we are able to move forward with this project. If needed, the committee may consider another intersection but for now will move forward with the purchase of the RRFB components as planned.

Traffic Calming Policy

Michael provided an overview on the current traffic calming policy and the reasons why the city has chosen to draft an update to it. The final draft of this proposal will be presented to the city council next week for adoption. Michael ran through the process of proposing traffic calming measures, which would include a community input meeting scheduled during a regularly scheduled BWAC meeting for projects that have been greenlighted by City Staff after initial transportation and community scoring.

Michael then ran through the proposed process for, as well as the role that BWAC would play. The conversation turned to the added responsibilities that the committee would have, which the committee seemed unanimously in favor of. Additional questions were asked as far as procedural clarification, and the committee is amenable to the changes that will be brought to city council.

Pearl Street Pedestrian Crossing Project

There is a new project being undertaken to add a crosswalk on Pearl Street (Route 15) between the fairgrounds and Pearl Street Park where there is a wide space between existing crosswalks. The project is

just getting started through a community survey and will tackle an issue that the committee has been considering for several years. A public survey has been launched to promote this effort.

Connect the Junction Update

The Essex Junction planning commission recently made critical policy choices regarding the Connect the Junction plan including recommendations that may affect BWAC. The plan will also be proposed at the city council meeting next week for implementation.

Delay of Bike Friendly Communities results

In a recent email it was revealed that the Bike Friendly Communities designation decision has been delayed and will likely be sent out in January; the city is hoping to be selected for a “Silver” designation based on the application that we submitted.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Lauren at 8:17pm, seconded by David. Motion approved by vote of 4-0.