

City of Essex Junction
Bike/Walk Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2023

Meeting Attendees: Micah Hagan, Chris Kline, Eric Bowker, Mark Breslin, Tacy Lincoln, Susan Grasso (Local Motion)

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:15 p.m. Tacy Lincoln volunteered to take minutes for the meeting. Minutes from April 17, 2023 were unanimously approved.

RRFB Update: Mark will check with Rick for status of the Lincoln/Central Streets crossing blinker.

LDC Update: There was nothing to report at this time. Micah asked if there were any upcoming meetings that members of the BWAC should attend. Mark will check with Chris Yuen and report back.

Request to Assist with 100 Mile Bike Fundraising Planning: Mark has been in contact with the planners of this event and will continue to discuss possible routes for the group to use. The event is scheduled for October, 2024.

Pride Festival (6/10/2023) Debrief: It was a very successful event from all perspectives. BWAC committee members staffed an information table and given the amount of interest and interaction throughout the event there was a discussion about what other community events the BWAC should attend next year. It was agreed that the concept of BWAC “out-reach” should be further explored at the next meeting. Mark mentioned that BWAC might want to be present at this year’s National Night Out program which is sponsored by local police departments across the country on the first Tuesday in August. He will look into the possibility of BWAC’s involvement. Additionally, Susan offered a couple of ideas for the committee to consider:

- Participate and/or be present in events throughout the greater Burlington community that “layer” the number of activities, agencies, programs, etc. which include a biking/walking component. This was enthusiastically received and Chris mentioned that it would be great for the BWAC to have a professionally made sign which would identify BWAC’s presence at these sort of events. There was further discussion about what sort of “give-aways” the BWAC might be able to hand out to attendees that would promote awareness and connections of the BWAC within the City of Essex Junction as well as surrounding communities.

- Provide “valet” bike parking services at local events to ensure the safe-keeping of bikes for attendees while at the same time promote riding versus driving to such events. Local Motion owns bike racks that could be borrowed and they would be willing to provide training and suggestions for the racks temporary placement. Chris suggested that the BWAC budget may allow BWAC to consider purchasing bike racks for areas where there is a determined need.

Discussion of the BWAC name: Chris asked if the name of the BWAC was inclusive of all the different ways people can be involved with biking and walking. For example, does the word “walk” represent people who are pedestrians within the community as well as people who are walking as an activity. Susan expressed her support of the name of the committee as it is and provided logical rationale. The committee members concluded that Bike/Walk Advisory Committee is an appropriate name.

Stress Map and Ongoing Projects: Given there was no update on the “America Walks” initiative, Susan requested that time to discuss the progress of the work Local Motion is doing to develop a “stress map” which is an analysis of the use of the biking infrastructure in Chittenden County. Ultimately, this analysis will provide data specific to each community. Susan offered to provide the BWAC with the data that relates to the City of Essex Junction when the project is complete. Additionally, Susan shared that they are working on a spreadsheet of all the various projects, programs and initiatives in the greater Burlington area that are in some way related to biking and walking. Such data will be used as a means of generating community feedback as to where priorities exist. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of administering a survey based upon the data and it was decided that this should be a topic for another meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: at 8:15 p.m.