

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 11, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Hamlin, Rosalind Hutton, Jud Lawrie, Eric Bowker, Rowena Albert, Andrea Van Liew

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Brazoski, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Bridget Meyer, Jason Van Driesche

1. CALL TO ORDER

Darby Brazoski called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

2. GROUP INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves, and spoke about their interests in bike/walk issues.

- Bridget was a part of the original Building Health Communities Committee (the predecessor to the Bike/Walk Advisory Committee). She is interested in helping to provide historical context for the group.
- Rick has lived in the community since 1965, and has been an avid biker since high school. He is also the Village Engineer, and has an interest in improving bike and walking path connectivity.
- Rowena moved here recently from New York state, and while she feels that biking and walking facilities are better here, there could still be improvements in connectivity.
- Andrea moved to Essex Junction a few years ago, and has two children. She is interested in biking and walking from both a personal and community minded standpoint. She also has an interest in improving accessibility for bike commuters.
- Eric grew up in Essex Town, and recently moved to Essex Junction because he liked the convenience of being able to walk or bike to so many places. He is concerned that not enough children are using active transportation to get to school. He is also on the Recreation Advisory Board.
- Jud moved to Essex Junction recently from Raleigh North Carolina. He has worked in the public transportation sector, and wants to help increase the number of greenways and increase the connectivity between them,
- Jason is the Director of Advocacy and Education at Local Motion. Local Motion's goal is to make it easier, safer, and more fun to get around on foot and bike. Part of their mission is to give technical support to communities who are working on biking and walking improvements. He can be available as a resource at or between meetings if he is needed.
- Darby works for the Village of Essex Junction and will be staffing this committee.

3. ETHICS POLICY

All group members read and signed off on the Ethics Policy.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF TERM LIMITS

- Rowena, Rick, and Eric choose to have three year terms.
- Jud, Andrea, and Rosalind choose to have two year terms.
- Phoebe Spencer and Eric Dufresne, who were not in attendance, were appointed to one year terms.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Brief discussion regarding the role of the chair was had. The chair sets the agenda, ensures that meetings run in an orderly fashion, and has a good pulse on the needs of the community.

MOTION by Rowena Albert, SECOND by Rosalind Hutton, to elect Rick Hamlin chair. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

MOTION by Andrea Van Liew, SECOND by Rosalind Hutton, to elect Rowena Albert vice-chair. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

6. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE INITIATIVES

Andrea asked if anyone knew about the status of the Crescent Connector. Rick said that it will be funded by the state and intends to be constructed in 2015. It will be a complete street design, and include bike lanes.

Jud asked if the Trails Committee is still functioning. Bridget said that it is, and that it might be helpful to collaborate with them at some point. She also suggested collaborating with CCSU for many wellness initiatives that involve school-aged children.

Jason mentioned that he would be available to come to future meetings if needed. He said that the Regional Planning Commission is currently funding a master bike/walk plan for Essex and Essex Junction, and that there might be some overlap between the two groups. Bridget said that it might be important for a committee member to attend all of the meetings of the group.

5. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- Meetings will be held on the third Monday of every month. Meetings will begin at 6:00 PM until the start of the school year, and at that point it may be pushed back to later in the evening. The next meeting will be held on July 15th at 6 PM at the Lincoln Hall meeting room. The group decided to cap their meeting length at one hour.

Agenda Items

- Rick asked all committee members to look over the priorities spreadsheet developed by the Building Health Communities group. He wanted them to choose three priorities each: one short-term, one medium term, and one long-term. They may also add a priority if there is something that is not listed on the spreadsheet that is important to them. The group will then compare their priorities to see what similarities and differences exist. Darby said that she would send out both the results of the Heart & Soul neighborhood conversations, and links developed by Local Motion for the group to review.
- Rick suggested that at the next meeting all committee members should show on a map where they live, and talk about their favorite places to walk or bike.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Jud Lawrie, SECOND by Eric Bowker, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

RScty: D. Brazoski