

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 15, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Phoebe Spencer, Jud Lawrie, Rowena Albert, Andrea Van Liew, Eric Bowker, Rick Hamlin

OTHERS PRESENT: Bridget Meyer, Matt Whalen (Community Wellness Coordinator at Essex CHIPS)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick Hamlin called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION Rowena, SECOND by Jud, to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Question from Phoebe about term limits - Is there a limit to the number of terms? No just forward your name to the Village Trustees.

3. UPDATE ON STATUS OF CURRENT PROJECTS FROM RICK

- St James Church driveway to North St/Grove St/Rt 2A - Sidewalk under construction with lighting and bike lanes, path for students who walk through the fairgrounds linkage to Champlain Valley Expo, new crosswalk across Rt 2A
- Safety Path - Central Street to North/Grove intersection, soon to be under design. Students walk on the RR track currently, new project will have a lighted paved path and fencing, state funded, link from bus station, landscaped, water drainage
- Pearl St. Link - Post Office to 5 Corners, project has been scoped, Meeting at VTrans this week. Hoping for funding to be made available for this project that will include bike lanes, street widening, lighting. Next step is next step design phase.
- Crescent Connector - Route is from Flanders near Karen's Kloset to Maple St., then following Railroad St to Main St. New track crossing, new intersection with signals at Maple St and Park St. with bike lanes on both sides of the road, under design now, environmental assessment phase under way. Construction anticipated in 2015.
- Closing Main St - A concept being discussed is closing Main Street from RR Ave to 5 Corners - 5 corners becomes a 4 way intersection, which would improve its level of service. Main St would turn into a pedestrian way. Could only happen

after Crescent Connector is complete.

- Other projects the committee would like to hear about: Pinewood Manor to Country Side connection, Pinecrest to Grandview and also a trail on Maple St Extension. We will talk to Robin Pierce, Development Director, to see if he has any information.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITY LIST FOR THE BIKE/WALK COMMITTEE

The first step is for each member to select a short, medium and long term goal project from the matrix that Darby provided, or other sources. Please note that short term priorities are abbreviated by ST, medium term priorities are abbreviated by MT, and long term priorities are abbreviated by LT.

Phoebe

ST: Adjust loops and paint points;

MT: Track crossing at Roscoe and also at Agency of Natural Resources (ANR);

LT: Pedestrianize lower Main St.;

Jud

ST: Bike maps paper, web & Google;

MT: Better signing and way finding;

LT: Bike/Walk master plan;

Rowena

ST: Increase awareness of the rules of the road for all;

MT: Improve safety of crosswalks & collaborate with adjacent communities;

LT: Organize a date for the bike/walk festival;

Eric

ST: Signage missing, focus on cross walk signs, painting & tree trimming, flags & buckets;

MT: Education for all, especially drivers, integration with schools, "I'm going to work too";

LT: Work with traffic - 25 MPH enforcement, traffic calming measures, slow down traffic speeds, better definition of bike lanes.

Rick

ST: Signal loops & paint spots;

MT: West St. to Pearl through ANR connection;

LT: Link from 2A to 15 through fairgrounds;

Andrea

ST: Signage at entrances to EJ announcing it as a friendly bike/walk community ;

MT: Escort or walking/riding "bus" to travel together to schools- ;

LT: Bike lane from 5 Corners to Richmond

Bridget

Crosswalks - signage and flagging, fines for not yielding to pedestrian. Education process, such as peds need to know that cars don't have to stop, just yield. Enforcement of whatever the group decides; tool for future reference - bike/walk master plan and guidelines for town planners. Checklist for planning board members - gives validity to this group - should be adopted by the Village.

5. QUESTIONS

Jud: What happens to items that don't make the priority list? Check items off the list and add more items each year. Are there other plans in neighboring communities? We can look at other towns plans? For example, the study of route from Susie Wilson to Winooski. We can keep up with other communities plans by joining Local Motion's email newsletter. Burlington Bike Walk is also a resource - Phoebe report anything interesting from them

Jud: What about bike parking facilities? stations & lockers for bikes - Rick says there are plans in the works on the Crescent, near the parking lot. The train station would be another good location for longer term storage.

6. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- August 19th, at the Essex Junction Municipal Offices.

Agenda Items

- Prioritize personal priority lists to create a priority list for the committee as a whole.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Phoebe, SECOND by Eric, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

RScty: Andrea Van Liew

