

MINUTES SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY THE ESSEX JUNCTION BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Hamlin, Rowena Albert, Jud Lawrie, Eric Bowker,
Rosalind Hutton, Phoebe Spencer (via Skype)**

**ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic
Development Assistant**

OTHERS: Sean Folley, Abigail Hans, Greg Morgan

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick Hamlin called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. PRESENTATION BY GREG MORGAN

Greg attended this meeting as a representative of the Essex Economic Development Commission. He educated the committee on the Way To Go program, which was an alternative commuting challenge that was held last fall. Due to the fact that this initiative was partially funded by money previously allocated for the Circ highway, there was a category for towns in the Circ area. Essex Junction won in this category, and the Way To Go officials would like to hold a party/press conference in Essex Junction to celebrate this win. This will be held to celebrate not just Essex Junction, but all of the other communities/businesses that won in various categories. Greg has reserved the Brownell Library meeting room from 11:15-12:15 to hold this event, and he would like to ask if the committee is interested in participating in this event.

Rick and Jud both said that they plan on attending, and Eric and Rosalind said that they would try to make it.

Jud asked if Essex, or Essex Junction won, and Greg told him that he was not sure.

Greg also stated that he had a continued hope that there would be a bike path built connecting Route 2A and CVE. Rick informed him that this is on the committee's long-term priority list.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

Rick and Jud asked for two spelling errors in the previous month's minutes to be corrected.

MOTION by JUD, SECOND by ROWENA, to accept the minutes of the October meeting with corrections. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

3. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES

a. Traffic Sign Survey

Jud began by giving the group an update on the traffic sign survey that he and Eric had been working on. He said that it appears that most of the responses that they intend to receive have been submitted by now.

Rick suggested that they go through the list and send all of the issues that are clearly public works concerns (i.e. potholes, missing signage, etc.) to Rick Jones, the Public Works Superintendent.

Eric asked the group if there is an ideal height for crosswalk signs. Rick said that there is a set height that they should be, and if a crosswalk is too high it should be added to the list of public works concerns. Rosalind added that there are some signs on Grove and Main Streets that are so high that they are covered by trees.

Jud said that he will distill the list to remove references to streets outside the Village, and sent it to Rick Jones. Eric said that he will compile a list of signs that are higher than they should be to add to the list of public works concerns.

Eric also noted that there were many comments received regarding the lack of speeding enforcement in the Village. He believes this is because there is minimal enforcement in the Village, and thus minimal ticketing.

Sean asked the group if speed sign flashers (like they have near ADL) are effective.

Rick said that the police would have records of this. Sean said that it might be helpful to get more of these signs if they are effective.

Rick told the committee that a good next step for them to do to address this concern would be to compile a list of all the places in the Village where drivers are habitually seen speeding.

b. Adjusting Loops

Rick said that he, Jeff, and Rowena went out late at night to all the Village intersections to attempt to trigger the loops. They marked the location that a bicycle's tire had to be in order to trigger the loop. He noted that many of the loops responded to light, such as a reflective vest or headlamp. He also said that most do have trigger points of some type.

Rick showed the group a proposed pavement marker pavement, and said that his company was willing to paint the first round once they obtain permission from the Board of Trustees to do so.

Jeff asked what color these were going to be painted, and Rick told him that they need to be white.

Rowena asked if there is a location typically used for the triggers?

Rick said that it is not consistent, as the loops are made for cars. He did add that all the new controls will be by video, so this will not be a problem in the future.

Phoebe is currently studying in California, and she said that all of the loops in the town that she lives in are in the dead center of the road.

Rick asked Phoebe if there are any problems with bicyclists using these? She told him that people there are very used to them, and that she has not noticed any problems.

c. Increase Awareness of Road Rules

Phoebe said that Local Motion has a bicycle safety brochure that contains a lot of good safety tips. She and Andrea would like to distribute this; however she would like to show it to the committee prior to doing this. The list is shown below, separated by the mode of travel used.

List For Bicyclists:

- Bicyclists are vehicles-bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists.
- Obey all traffic laws.
- Bicyclists should ride with traffic and use arm signals when turning.
- Bicyclists are required by state law to use at least a front light and rear reflector at night.
- The more visible a bicycle is, the safer they are.
- Helmets are especially important for children's bicycle safety.
- Ride with traffic.
- Signal all turns.
- Stay to the right.

Rosalind said that she felt it was important to note that helmets are important for all riders, not just children.

The group also decided to combine the last three bullets.

Ride with traffic was taken out from the third bullet, and stay to the right was added in its place.

List for Walkers:

- Pedestrians should use crosswalks and signals whenever available.
- Obey pedestrian signs and signals.
- Wear bright clothes.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Yield to cars they may not see you.

Rosalind said that it would be good to use the term “be safe, be seen” as it is taught in the schools and the students recognize it. She said that making your presence known means making eye contact with the driver to ensure that they see you before trying to cross. She also state that “give respect, get respect” is another well-known phrase that would be helpful to use. It was decided to also add these expressions to the list for bicyclists.

Sean said that the five finger hand painted on the crosswalk also has good visual recognition.

List for motorists:

- Motorists should be alert and avoid distractions such as cell phones and texting.
- It is a state law that motorists must yield to pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Motorists must give at least three feet of room when passing bicyclists.
- Motorists should not block sidewalks or crosswalks when parking.

Eric asked if the 3 foot passing requirement is a state law, and the group was unsure. Phoebe said that she would check and confirm.

Rick said that motorists should not block walking/biking areas while standing, stopped, or parking.

List for Railroad Crossings:

- Trains have the right of way.
- Never trespass or cross tracks illegally.
- Avoid getting trapped on the railroad tracks by ensuring that there is enough room on the other side for your vehicle to completely clear the tracks.
- Many people don't realize that trains are three feet wider than the tracks. Drivers need to be certain that their vehicles are clear of the tracks.
- Avoid distractions such as loud music, texting, or talking on cell phones when crossing the railroad tracks.
- Always look both ways before crossing railroad tracks.
- Wait for trains and do not attempt to beat approaching tracks.
- Always expect a train.

Rick asked to include the “Stop, look, listen” expression that is taught in the schools

Phoebe and Andrea will work to make revisions, and then will publicize the document using the Essex Reporter, Porch Forum, and other methods.

12. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- December 18th, at 6 PM.

Agenda Items

- Review and approve minutes of previous meeting (11/18/13).
- Update on traffic sign survey progress & adjusting loops
- Review work on crosswalk signage & flagging.
- Discussion of Bike Friendly America Blueprint.
- Presentation from Jud Lawrie regarding four potential committee initiatives
- Report from Jud Lawrie on the bike/walk conditions in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by JUD, SECOND by ANDREA, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.