

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2014**

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

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick Hamlin called the meeting to order at 6 PM. He informed the committee that the advertisement of the Road Rules began today.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS

The presentation by Eric on Chapel Hill, NC was corrected to Charaboro NC.

Darby asked that the committee please add to the agenda a request to write a letter of recommendation for the Village of Essex Junction for the Municipal Effort Award at the statewide Bike/Walk Summit.

MOTION by JUD, SECOND by ERIC, to amend the agenda. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

3. MUNICIPAL EFFORT AWARDS

Darby informed the committee that the Village is interested in applying for the Municipal Effort Award at the upcoming Vermont Bike/Walk Summit. This is the first year that this award is available, and it is being sponsored by a variety of leaders in the field, such as Local Motion, CCRPC, and the UVM Transportation Research Center.

Rick asked Darby to confirm that the committee would only be writing a letter of recommendation, and not completing the entire application. Darby said that this was correct. Rick said that he would draft a letter and send it to the rest of the committee.

Andrea asked if the committee would be able to attend, and Darby said that she thought that they would be.

4. MINUTES REVIEW

Rick asked to clarify that it was the Bike/Walk Advisory Committee, not Hamlin Engineering, that was given permission to paint the bicycle trigger points.

Jud mentioned that his name was spelled incorrectly in section six, and asked that the minutes be corrected to state that he was presenting on Davidson, NC.

Rosalind said that she would like to state that one hour did not seem to be a long enough time for the committee to accomplish all of their work. Rick said that he disagreed, and thought that an hour was the perfect amount of time for an efficient meeting. He reminded the group how much they had accomplished in the past few months, and said that they could reevaluate the meeting length this in the spring if need be. Andrea said that she was fine with going a few minutes over the time limit if an important discussion was occurring. Rowena told Rick that she appreciated how respectful he was of their time in starting and ending the meeting promptly.

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

5. PROJECT UPDATES

Andrea stated that the committee's entry in the Front Porch Forum "Seven Words" contest was not a winner.

Rick said that he would be meeting with UVM Senior engineering students regarding the potential of them assisting with a scoping study of a bike/pedestrian path to connect Pearl and West Streets.

Eric will be connecting with the police regarding enforcement concerns.

6. PRESENTATION FROM ERIC BOWKER ON THE BIKE/WALK CONDITIONS IN CHARABORO, NC

Eric stated that Charaboro is a small city west of Chapel Hill NC, with a population of 19,000. He choose to study this community due to its similarities to Essex Junction. It is considered to be one of the most liberal cities in the South. They have received a variety of state grants for transportation planning, as well as a grant from the NC Health Department to study the impact of active transportation on health.

The population of this city is very young, and the median family income is \$45,000. Charaboro is home to a very popular farmer's market, and all items sold are required to be made within a fifty (50) mile radius of the city. The city was awarded silver level status from the League of American Bicyclists. Charaboro developed a greenway to connect itself with neighboring Chapel Hill. The city has a residential traffic management plan, and is considering the idea of pedestrianizing areas of their downtown. Bus service is free.

Andrea asked if the greenway had separate bike and pedestrian lanes?

Eric said that it did.

Andrea said that, in many multi-use lanes, walkers end up in the bike lane due to the fact that this is more room, which can be a safety issue.

Rick stated that physical dividers between the sections can be helpful to avoid this problem.

7. WORK ON COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT

Prior to the meeting, Jud sent out samples of other community vision statements. Rick showed the committee the Bike/Walk Advisory Committee mission statement, and reminded them that they are working on developing a vision statement for the community as a whole, not just the committee. Andrea stated that she believes that the vision statement should reflect the community's goals, rather than its current status. She noted that she preferred broader statements. She contrasted this to the mission statement, which she felt should reflect the purpose of the committee. The following are keywords/points that various committee members felt were important to include:

- A mention of Essex Junction's history as a transportation hub.
- Several committee members liked the fact that Maryland's goal is to be the best state in the nation for biking and walking.
- Neighborhoods are connected safely.
- Joyful for people of all ages and abilities.
- A cleaner environment.
- Contributing to economic vitality.
- Seamless, balanced, and barrier-free network.
- Year-round.
- Provided and maintained.
- Vibrant commercial districts.
- Convenient and practical options for everyone.
- Contribute to our identity

Andrea suggested using some of the Heart & Soul terms in the vision statement. Rick added that he felt that we should focus on biking and walking as a method of transportation, rather than the health or exercise benefits gained from it. He believes that this may help some individuals take biking and walking more seriously.

Eric noted that he disagreed, and that he felt that the health benefits of non-motorized transportation are very important.

Jud stated that he felt that the vision statement should be kept short, and that other elements can be listed as committee or community goals.

Rick offered to draft a vision statement that incorporated as many of these ideas as possible and share it with the group.

Rosalind suggested that all members of the group work on writing a vision statement, and compare the results. Rick suggested that all brainstorm be submitted by February 5th in time for them to be compiled prior to the next meeting.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

9. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- January 10th, at 6 PM.

Agenda Items

- Minutes Review;
- Review & Edit Bike/Walk Vision Statement for Village;
- Project Update from Andrea Van Liew on Keene, NH;
- Public Input.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.