

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 10, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Hamlin, Andrea Van Liew, Phoebe Spencer, 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 6:01 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS

Rick proposed adding the following to the agenda:

- Report on a grant sponsorship meeting with Essex CHIPS;
- Report on progress of UVM design team;
- Report on Municipal Effort Award.

3. UVM DESIGN TEAM

Rick informed the committee that the Village was working with three different teams of UVM Senior engineering students on their final capstone projects. The capstone project is intended for students to get real world design experience prior to graduation. One of the teams is working to design a link to connect Route 15 and West Street through a signalized rail crossing for pedestrians. This is an important crossing area due to the fact that the only legal crossing areas in this area are over a mile apart, and the fact that many people are interested in accessing this area due to the numerous parks in the area.

Andrea asked if the trains would need to change their operations as a result of this signalized crossing? Rick said that they would not.

Jud asked if the students would be presenting their final project to the committee? Rick said that at this point they are just looking for public input to form the final project.

Jud asked what this project's next step would be? Rick said that the Village would need to apply for funding, but the fact that a considerable amount of engineering work had already been done on this project would make it more competitive.

The students would like to come to the next meeting to present their work to the committee, and to get input from them on final project design. All agreed that this was a good idea. After brief

discussion, the committee decided to move the regularly scheduled meetings back to the third Monday of every month.

4. CHIPS GRANT SPONSORSHIP

Rick said that he and Darby met with two CHIPS employees regarding a grant application that they are submitting to the Department of Health. Rick signed the committee on as a potential partner for the project.

He also added that the idea of an informal community bike ride, most likely following the Five Corners Farmers Market this summer, was thought of as a potential collaboration. This would be open to all riders, regardless of ability, and it is possible that the grant that CHIPS is applying for may provide funds for reflective vests, helmets, etc.

5. MUNICIPAL EFFORT AWARD

Rick informed the group that he had written a letter of recommendation on behalf of the committee for the Village of Essex Junction's application.

6. MINUTES REVIEW

Andrea asked that the spelling of her name be corrected.

On the second page, Rick requested that the following sentence be taken out: "Rick said that he disagreed, and thought that an hour was the perfect amount of time for an efficient meeting." He asked that it be replaced with the following: "Rick offered that in his experience efficiency dropped off quickly after one hour."

Jud asked that the next meeting date be fixed.

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

7. REVIEW RULES OF THE ROAD

Rick presented the group with some of the comments that had been written on Front Porch Forum, as well as an e-mail to Darby, regarding the published Rules of the Road. These appear below:

1. And how about "If there is a sidewalk, and it's plowed & not icy, pedestrians should not be walking/running in the street!" Runners especially don't seem to understand how dangerous it is to encounter them where they don't belong.

2. If you come upon a walk sign and you hit the signal, please wait for it. If you do not, then all of us drivers get the pleasure of waiting for your selfish decision, in addition we get to blow emissions from our cars into the air!!!. Here is an example: You are walking up to the 5 corners,

you are going to cross from Park to Lincoln. You get to the walk signal. Do you push it now or wait a few seconds to determine if you can make it across without disturbing the traffic. As you can see, you just need to look around, prior to hitting a button. All I ask, DO NOT hit the walk signal, unless you are going to wait for it. This is an amazing lesson you can teach your kids.

Andrea stated that she thought that Essex Junction did a very good job clearing the sidewalks, and that people needed to realize that ice and snow are something that must be expected in the winter. Eric said that sometimes the sidewalks are not cleared in a timely fashion.

Rick said that he was confused by the first comment, as he felt that runners had a right to be in the road, especially in the winter.

Phoebe said that she thought that these comments seemed a bit negative, and not what the committee should be focusing on. Rick agreed.

Rick said that he thought that the idea of not pushing the pedestrian light unless needed was a good idea. Eric said that he did not think that this was as pressing of an issue as some of the other things that the committee was working on.

No action was taken.

Jeff mentioned that he had seen some type of waving hand painted on sidewalks through the Village with certain bike/pedestrian safety tips written on it. He had not been able to find any additional information about it, however, and asked the committee members if they knew anything about it. No one was able to provide additional information.

8. PRESENTATION BY ANDREA ON KEENE NH

Andrea said that she liked the fact that Keene focused on the interconnectedness of alternative transportation, health and a clean environment. She said that there were maps of the downtown available which showed the location of bike racks, as well as walking trails. These maps showed the difference between the accessibility in the winter and summer as well. She also liked the fact that they focused on all modes of alternative transport (i.e. rollerblades, skateboards, et.) not just biking and walking.

The committee was especially interested in the comprehensive map. Darby passed around a map of walking areas that was created by Move More Essex Junction a few years ago. Rick said that the creation of a comprehensive map might be something that the committee should consider making a priority.

9. REVIEW OF VISION STATEMENT

After some discussion, the committee formed the following as their mission statement:

“Essex Junction strives to be recognized as a friendly village of connected neighborhoods and destinations in which convenient and safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities are integrated into a

seamless and accessible year-round transportation system. This system will promote the enjoyment and health of all citizens, a more vibrant local economy, and a cleaner environment.”

MOTION by ANDREA, SECOND by PHOEBE, to adopt vision statement. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

10. REVIEW OF BIKE/WALK DOCUMENT

The committee reviewed the draft and will be giving their comments to the CCRPC.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- April 21, at 6 PM.

Agenda Items

- Minutes Review;
- Presentation from UVM Students on Capstone Project;
- Presentation from Jeff Frolik on Chapel Hill, NC;
- Presentation from Jud Lawrie on Bike Friendly Communities Application;
- Public Input.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.