

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
APRIL 21, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Hamlin, Phoebe Spencer, Jud Lawrie, Jeff Frolik

OTHERS PRESENT: UVM Engineering Students: Torrey Adair, Michael Keach, Caleb Kernan, Ryan Spangenberger, Timothy Tabor

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS

None.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

Rick asked that the following be changed in the March minutes. On page three, paragraph three, Eric should be quoted rather than Rick. He also asked that the phrase “mission statement,” also on page three, be changed to “proposed Village mission statement.”

There were no other comments; however no action on the minutes was taken due to a lack of quorum.

4. UVM DESIGN TEAM PRESENTATION

Rick said that the students are here to present a project that they have been working on all semester: a multi-use path to connect West Street and Pearl Street. He said that this presentation has two purposes: for the students to improve their professional presentation skills, and for them to improve their project. As a result of this, comments and questions about these two elements will be addressed separately.

The students presented a Power Point to the committee detailing the project.

The following questions/comments regarding the project design were presented by various members of the Bike/Walk Advisory Committee to the students:

Question	Answer
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What are the next steps in your project?	We will finish our drawings, make a poster, prepare a report, and complete a final presentation.
Were different bridge designs considered for this project?	No, the proposed bridge design is “off the shelf,” meaning that it would be purchased as is.
How many lights will be included with this project?	Lighting plans are still being developed.
What other attractions are near the path besides the community gardens and dog park?	None, the design of the path is based on current desire lines and tracks observed in the snow.
Is there currently enough parking in the area?	No, additional parking is needed.
Would the path be plowed?	Yes.
What is cost of the continued maintenance for the path?	It has not been calculated yet; however it is always acknowledged that paving projects will require funds to maintain.
Could this path be used to provide access to Hiawatha School?	This option was not studied.
Why is the path curved rather than straight?	A straight path would involve going through private property.
Are there any problems with the build option?	None discovered so far. The sandy soils will actually make the area easy to excavate.
Did your group count the number of people crossing the tracks at a given time?	No.
What signage will be used to direct people to the path?	None is proposed at this time. Fencing could be used to keep people out of the illegal crossing areas and encourage them to use the multi-use path.
Has any public input been gathered?	None except for this meeting.
Who do you think the prime stakeholders are?	Residents living near the path, fairgoers, and owners of the abutting Pearl Street businesses.
What do you think the biggest challenge with this project is?	Convincing the railroad that this project is necessary.

The following general presentation improvement ideas were presented to the students:

- Jud suggested that the students consider using a laser pointer.
- Jeff said that the animations used in the Power Point were very useful, and that more could be used throughout the presentation.
- Phoebe said that more location detail would have been helpful, especially when presenting to a group who may not be familiar with the area. She also suggested notating ADA compliance in the final design.

5. PRESENTATION FROM JEFF ON CHAPEL HILL, NC

Jeff shared the following facts with the committee:

- Chapel Hill established a Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Board in 2004.
- Chapel Hill is a college town with a population of 57,000. This makes it similar to Burlington.
- The town recently received a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to develop a new bike plan. This plan is just focused on biking, not bike and pedestrian activities combined.
- All bus transit is free, and all buses have bike carriers. Jeff suggested that Essex Junction could consider offering free bus transportation from the train station if it wanted to follow this model.
- Chapel Hill has a master plan called Design 2020, which states goals that are intended for completion by that date.

Rick said that the plan design is good. He mentioned that Chapel Hill used a Wiki Map tool where people can login and point out concern areas. Darby mentioned that Burlington used something similar in the past, and offered to connect with a former co-worker in Burlington to learn more about how this was used. This idea is appealing due to the fact that citizens can weigh in from home, and do not need to take time out of their schedule to attend a meeting.

6. MASTER PLAN & NEXT MEETING

Rick said that the natural next step for the committee is to create a Bike/Walk Master Plan for Essex Junction. This will include what types of facilities currently in Essex Junction, and what is desired. It can be developed either on paper or online. This will also make obtaining funding easier, due to the fact that many grants require projects to be in some type of planning document before they will offer construction funds.

It was decided to move the next meeting to May 12th, due to committee member vacations. This meeting will begin with a ceremonial detector loop painting at the intersection of Park St. and Iroquois Ave. The Village Trustees and Village administration would be invited to this. Members are encouraged to bike or walk to the meeting. In case of inclement weather, the painting will be postponed.

Phoebe will be presenting on Davis CA at the next meeting. She lived in Davis for several months. Davis is an interesting city to study due to the fact that was was planned as a bicycle friendly city, and thus did not have to be retrofitted.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- May 12, at 6 PM.

Agenda Items

- Ceremonial Detector Loop Painting. Meeting will begin at the intersection of Park St. and Iroquois Ave.
- Minutes Review.
- Report on Bike Friendly Community Application, League of Bicyclists
- Presentation by Phoebe on Davis, CA.
- Planning of Friday night bike rides.
- Public Input.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville

