

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
MAY 12, 2014**

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

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

2. CERAMONIAL LOOP DETECTOR PAINTING

The meeting began with the committee painting a loop detector at the corner of Park Street and Iroquois Ave. After the paining was complete, the committee conducted the rest of their meeting at Lincoln Hall. A picture of the group painting the loop was taken, and Darby said that she will send it to the Essex Reporter.

3. AGENDA ADDITIONS

None.

4. MINUTES REVIEW

The minutes from both the March and April meetings were discussed.

Rick asked that the minutes of the April meeting be changed to state that it was Eric, not Rick that should have been quoted in the last paragraph of section 5. The changes on the March minutes were discussed at the April meeting, but were not voted on due to a lack of quorum.

MOTION by JUD, SECOND by JEFF, to approve the March and April minutes, with changes. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

5. REPORT ON BIKE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY APPLICATION

Jud told the committee that he had been researching the possibility of the Village applying for designation as a Bike Friendly City. He stated that the Village had applied for this recognition in August of 2012, and had received honorable mention, as well as numerous recommendations for improvement. The Village completed the application with assistance from Local Motion and UVM students.

Jud stated that there are two deadlines each year to apply, one in September and one in February. He suggests that the committee try for the February 2015 deadline, so that they have enough time to create a competitive application.

Jud mentioned that some of the feedback from the previous application seemed a bit irrelevant. He cited the fact that the feedback commended Essex Junction for having both a bicycle master plan, as well as bike maps and route finding services - neither of which it currently has, or has had in the past. Darby said that she thinks that many of these statements are based on regional, rather than local initiatives.

Jud asked where he should go to gather further information to complete the application. Rick suggested contacting Local Motion or the CCRPC.

Rick suggested that this proposed application would be something that the committee could bring in front of the Trustees once the vision statement is approved.

Phoebe mentioned that Burlington had successfully applied to become a bike friendly city, and suggested that they may be willing to assist us with an application.

Rick noted that the application instructions asked for a broad group to review the application. He suggested the possibility of having a draft available on the Village website for members of the public to comment on. Jeff also suggested having a table at the Farmer's Market to get feedback from the public.

The committee also noted that there was a bike friendly business designation, however Jud was not aware of the process involved with gaining this distinction. The committee wondered if this might be of interest to any local businesses.

Jud and Rick will be meeting in the next month to further discuss the best way to get this application off the ground.

6. PRESENTATION BY PHOEBE ON DAVIS, CA

Phoebe recently spent several months living in Davis. Davis is roughly 10 square miles, and has a population of 66,000. Similar to Essex Junction, Davis does not have a school bus system. Half of its population is college students. It is warm, with winter temperatures in the 50s. It is also a very flat city. Davis is considered to be one of the most bike friendly cities in the nation, and is a Platinum level bike city.

In the 1970s, two University of California, Davis professors spent some time in the Netherlands and were inspired by its bike friendliness. They were active in city government, and planted the idea of establishing a bike friendly community.

Phoebe showed the group a bike map produced by the city which also contains information on biking rules and regulations. 90% of city streets contain bike lanes. They also offer a bike traffic schools to teach new riders about the rules of the road. There are numerous greenways

connecting neighborhoods, as well as bike and pedestrian bridges. This makes biking often a faster mode of transportation than driving in a car. Davis's Bike/Pedestrian plan was updated in 2009, and they had the goal of having 25% of trips made by bike. While this was not achieved, the current percentage of trips by bicycle is 19.1%.

Andrea asked how this was measured, and Phoebe said that she was not sure.

Phoebe added that Davis considers equity as a part of the "E" format. This means that all are able to access biking, and that biking gets a lot of public funds.

Interestingly enough, Essex Junction actually has higher rates of residents who walk to work than Davis. Phoebe said that this could be because of how spread out the city is.

Rick stated that the example of Davis shows how important a vision is, and how a committed small group can shape a city.

7. PLANNING OF FRIDAY NIGHT BIKE RIDES

Rick brought up the idea of doing informal bike rides around Essex Junction neighborhoods on the evenings of the Farmer's Market. All agreed that it was a good idea. Andrea suggested ending each ride at an ice cream shop, and possibility asking different shops to sponsor the ride.

Jud brought up the idea of potential liabilities for the Village if a rider was to get injured, and Darby said that she would check in with the Village manager about this.

Rick stated that future meetings would be changed to their originally scheduled date of the third Monday of the month.

Rick mentioned that Rowena will not be continuing on the committee, and that they will soon begin advertising for a new person to fill this slot. Rick said that he would contact previous applicants to see if they are still interested in being on the committee.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

9. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- June 16, at 6 PM.

Agenda Items

- Minutes Review.
- Division of work on League of American Bicyclists Award Application.
- Discussion of Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.

- Presentation from Rosalind on Portland OR.
- Discussion on crosswalk improvements and marking.
- Public input.
- Group picture at loop detector location.
- Public Input.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville