

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
AUGUST 18, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Hamlin, Rosalind Hutton, Jud Lawrie, Jeff Frolik, Eric Bowker

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Rick at 6:03 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS

None.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

Jeff pointed out that the word “additions” was misspelled in the second paragraph.

MOTION by JUD, SECOND by ERIC, to approve the July minutes, with changes. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

4. DISCUSSION ON BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES APPLICATION

Jud, Phoebe, and Jeff have been working on preparing the application. Phoebe analyzed the previous application, and made suggestions for improvements. Jeff looked at the reviewer comments, focusing on short term goals. He mentioned that some of the information provided seemed to be inaccurate, and that it would be important to correct this for the next application. He also mentioned that publicizing existing activities would be helpful.

Jud mentioned that he would try to get all of these comments into an easier to read format by the next meeting. Rick suggested that the committee review the information and split up the responsibilities at the next meeting. Jeff also offered to send around the current spreadsheet to all committee members, so that they can add any needed information prior to the next meeting.

Jeff added that he thought that expanding the number of businesses that offer discounts for bicyclists would be a good goal. Currently, Firebird Café is the only known location that offers this.

5. DISCUSSION ON ESSEX/ESSEX JUNCTION BIKE/WALK MASTER PLAN

Rick mentioned that the CCRPC has been working on a Bike/Walk Plan for Essex Town and Junction. This will help to enhance our Bike Friendly Communities application. Jud said that he would review the plan to see if there is additional content in the plan that would help our application.

Rick brought up the list of committee goals, created when the committee was originally formed. He noted that there are 3-4 “top priority” goals for short, medium, and long term projects, respectively. Jeff noted that the committee had completed two short-term goals, and one long-term goal (the development of a master plan). He suggested that they add at least one more goal to the short-term category. Rick said that he would send around the original goal list to committee members so that they can decide what to add. He also spoke briefly on the idea of instituting slow roll rides. This is a group ride program that began in Detroit, and has spread all over the country. These rides are open to all, and are social rides.

7. PLANNING FOR SCHOOL OUTREACH

Rick asked the committee which age groups would be the best to focus on. All agreed that working with younger students would be more effective.

Rosalind asked for clarification on the type of outreach the committee was hoping to do: education and safety, or rider encouragement? The committee agreed that they hoped to do both.

Rosalind, who is a PE teacher at Summit Street School, as well as a parent of two Hiawatha students, said that she is working to get biking maps at the new student orientation. She thought that it could be helpful to have a person available to provide information on crossing guard locations, bike racks, and other information that individual families might be looking for. She is working with Essex CHIPS to see if a staff member could assist with this project. She also mentioned that some families may drive part way to school and walk the remainder of the distance, depending on what part of the Village they live in.

She hopes to include some type of information on biking at the Summit Street School orientation later this week. Rick asked if Summit Street School still had a colored map of the Village posted. Rosalind said that it was covered up, and she is unsure if it is still up on the wall under the other documents. She thought that giving out a copy of this map to interested families would help them map out optimal bike and walking routes from their home. Rick said that he has smaller copies available, and would get them to her.

Rosalind mentioned that she has recently applied for a grant from the Kohl’s foundation that would allow Summit Street School to have approximately 30 bikes for several months. These bikes would be child sized, and would allow there to be bike instruction in the PE classes. She will find out in a few weeks whether or not the grant application was accepted. Using the bikes will provide an important classroom component to teaching about bike safety.

Rick mentioned that ADL does some type of biking unit too, however he is unsure if it includes safety lessons or not. He was also aware of some type of biking curriculum at Essex High School. Rick mentioned that there used to be a biking club at Essex High School.

Jeff said that it is important to document all of the work going on in the schools relating to bike safety in the Bike Friendly Communities application.

8. SET BUDGET PRIORITIES

Some of the things that the committee expressed interest in possibly funding in the next fiscal year are as follows:

- Additional bike racks. Rosalind pointed out that the library could use an additional one as the current one fills up quickly.
- Bike maps.
- Rick suggested printing at least a dozen signs for the guerilla signage project. Ideally, these will be printed on foam core and affixed to street lights. Eric will approach some of his professional contacts to try to get a price figure on the printing of these signs.

The committee noted that a bike shop in Essex Junction would be of tremendous value. They discussed the idea of a shop or shops doing “pop-up” shops and repair days, perhaps at the farmer’s market. Rosalind suggested the idea of doing a bike rodeo at the Farmer’s Market.

Jud suggested that the committee purchase helmets and reflective vests to sell or give away at events. Darby said that she would check with Lauren to see if the committee would be allowed to either sell or ask for donations in exchange for these products. Jud also suggested the idea of a design a bike rack contest, with committee money going towards the construction of the best design.

Rick said that the committee would discuss more budgetary specifics at the next meeting.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- September 15, at 6 PM.

Agenda Items

- Minutes Review;
- Continue Work on League of American Bicyclists Application;
- Update Short, Medium, and Long Range Goals;
- Finalize Street Sign Graphics;
- Discuss School Outreach;
- Public Input.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville