

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Hamlin, Phoebe Spencer, Jud Lawrie, Jeff Frolik, Eric Bowker, Raj Chawla

ADMINISTRATION: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick called the meeting to order at 5:56 PM.

2. MINUTES REVIEW

The minutes review was tabled until the January meeting due to Darby's absence.

3. AGENDA ADDITIONS

Rick asked to add a discussion on a Capital Committee request to the Bike/Walk Advisory Committee for projects to be added to the capital program. All agreed.

4. CAPITAL COMMITTEE PROJECT REQUEST

The Capital Committee has asked the Bike/Walk Advisory Committee to suggest projects that they would like to be included in the capital program. Some of their current projects include lighting/sidewalk initiatives, but nothing specifically for improving the walk/bike experience. At the next meeting all members will arrive with a list of their top three projects in the Village from the Bike/Walk master plan.

Some initial ideas included the following:

- Jeff asked about path behind Hiawatha School.
 - Rick talked about the path being part of Rosewood/Briar development.
 - Jeff mentioned that replacing bridge would be an improvement.
 - Rick asked Jeff to send an email about the trail to Development Director Robin Pierce, as he is looking for potential trail upgrade projects as a part of a grant.
- Raj suggested identifying places for blinking crosswalk signals, such as near the Maple St. pool.
 - Rick mentioned crosswalks near CVE and 2A past Prospect St.
 - Raj suggested near town offices, Rick agreed.

5. CONTINUE WORK ON LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS APPLICATION

Some updates on this document include:

- Rick updated the population and climate numbers with 2013 estimates.
- Jud plans to call LAB about some questions that he has.
- Rick suggested copying 2012 answers to the 2015 spreadsheet column for easier entry into the new form.
- Rick will be added as a contact person on the form.
 - Jud suggested that the reviewers might put extra focus on certain questions, such as what we consider important and how we plan to improve.
 - Jud suggested that everyone add specific knowledge to sections even if they are not assigned to that area.
- Eric clarified that we would all contribute to filling out the online application.
- Raj discussed enforcement section and the prominence that the police department contact put on bike patrol.
 - Raj asked if these should be considered community advocates for cyclists?
 - Question 62: Jeff asked if this would be the person that Raj contacted. Raj said he would ask that person if they would be willing to serve as a contact.
 - Question 71: Raj talked about the youth bike patrol, and wondered whether they should be included as advocates.
- Rick mentioned that the safe passing distance state law should be included.
 - Eric agreed that this should be included, and mentioned the current bill being discussed at state level that clarifies the required distance.
- Raj said he would work on wording regarding the bike patrol.
- Jeff commented on the encouragement portion starting with question 47.
 - Jeff will meet with Darby on Thursday regarding adding additional information on the committee website.
 - Jeff wondered where the figures for the number of bike month participants came from?
 - Phoebe mentioned checking the number of participants in the national bike challenge.
 - Raj suggested including school participants in bike rodeos.

Other things to include:

- Jeff suggested adding the Municipal Effort award (for communities over 5000 people) that Essex Junction won last year.
- Jeff brought up the statement about half of farmer's market participants arriving on bikes to Farmer's Market. and Rick suggested changing that to up to 15% given the number of bikes on their bike rack.
- Raj wondered if there was an estimate of percentage of youth who bicycle.
 - It was suggested that this be estimated based on bike rack capacity at ADL or the Maple St. pool, as they fill during warm weather.
- Rick suggested noting this when adding estimated numbers to the matrix.

- Jeff asked whether the committee thought that there was a shortage of bike parking at Maple St. Park?
 - Eric and Rick said that they thought that it was sufficient.
- Rick said he will include recent trainings for village engineering staff in the matrix.
- Rick said barriers to cycling to add are weather and terrain, but that bridges have been improved significantly in recent years.
- Eric contacted 2 LAB instructors with questions, but has not heard back from either of them yet.
- Rick wondered how many bike racks IBM has?
 - Raj said he would ask neighbors that ride to IBM regularly.
- Rick commented that not many businesses (other than CVE and Rocky's) have bike racks unless they are public entities.
- Jeff asked when application is due?
 - Jud said February 11.
 - Rick suggested that matrix should be substantially filled in by the next meeting.
 - Before submission, the committee will send the matrix to the Trustees and/or Pat Scheidel for approval.
- Questions 87-90 will be looked at by the entire committee prior to the next meeting.

Rick showed the committee new direction signs and suggested hanging them in the spring.

- Jeff asked if there is a spring event scheduled?
 - Rick suggested that this be done.
 - Eric mentioned that bike/walk to school day is May 6th, which is a Wednesday. A bike rodeo day may possibly on May 8th.
 - Raj talked about doing something as a part of a monthly assembly at one of the schools.
 - Rick mentioned that street sweeping should be finished by mid-May, and that the weekend after Green Up Day might be a good opportunity for a fun bike event. The date of Saturday May 9th and the name Cycle de Mayo were discussed.

6. BUDGET DEVELOPMENT FOR FYE16

This was tabled until the next meeting.

7. DEVELOP RECOMMENDED BICYCLE ROUTES FOR VTRANS SURVEY

Eric mentioned that at Train Hop the Darkroom Gallery had a list of questions about and map of walk/bike routes in the village. He did not know who orchestrated this. Rick wondered if it was a part of the VTrans survey.

Raj asked if there would ever be an extension from Pearl St. bike lane toward Susie Wilson Road. Rick said that it is hoped that that connection will be made in 2016 when a bike route to Winooski is developed.

Rick suggested that committee help send the VTrans survey out to the general public, and suggested that Darby post it on FPF. Raj and Jeff shared their experiences with the using the mapping tool.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

9. NEXT MEETING & AGENDA

- Next Meeting: January 26th at 5:45 PM
- Agenda Items:
 1. Minutes Review;
 2. Development of Capital Projects List;
 3. FYE16 Budget Discussions;
 4. Public Input.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY RAJ SECOND BY ERIC TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville & Phoebe Spencer