

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
OCTOBER 19, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Hamlin, Micah Hagan, Jud Lawrie, Raj Chawla, Gabe Epstein

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations/Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITONS

MOTION BY JUD, SECOND BY MICAH TO ADD GO! VERMONT GRANT TO MEETING AGENDA. MOTION PASSED.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

MOTION BY JUD, SECOND BY RAJ TO ACCEPT SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED.

3. GO! VERMONT GRANT

Darby mentioned that the Village had been awarded this grant several years ago. She said that it seemed to be pretty open-ended. Some of the things the Village did with this grant included putting up posters, having a table at the Farmer's Market, and handing out information at Dunkin Donuts.

The committee decided that this was worth reviewing further, and Rick said that he will ask Phoebe to find out more information about it.

4. REVIEW LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS COMMENTS

The committee reviewed all of the recommendations given by the League. This list is organized by category, recommendation, and committee comments on the recommendation (if applicable).

Engineering

1. Continue to increase the amount of high quality bike parking throughout the community.
2. Continue to expand the shared-use path and on street bike network, especially along arterials. Work with the neighboring communities, the county, and the state to make Route 15 and Route 2 safer for bicyclists. **Committee Comments:** In the summer of

2016, all of the state routes into Essex Junction will be repaved. As a result of this, there will be the opportunity to encourage the state to add bike paths or shared use paths. Rick said that he is especially hoping to have bike lanes added on Park Street, Lincoln Street, and Pearl Street. Rick mentioned that it would also be helpful to have the speed limit on Pearl Street dropped to 30 miles an hour to facilitate safe bicycling. Rick noted that bicycle triggers also need to be repainted.

3. Develop a system of bicycle boulevards, utilizing quiet neighborhood streets, that creates an attractive, convenient, and comfortable cycling environment welcoming to cyclists of all ages and skill levels. **Committee Comments:** Rick said that this would be an easy thing to do, by adding new signs stating that this roadway can be shared by all users. The committee noted that Tyler Drive, Haden Street, Countryside Drive, Cascade Street, Mansfield Ave., and Pleasant Street were all good potential locations.
4. Install a bicycle wayfinding system with distance and destination information at strategic locations around the community, integrating preferred on street routes and off-street facilities. **Committee Comments:** This is something that the committee is currently working on with the guerilla signage project.

Education

1. Work with your local bicycle groups or interested parents to expand the Safe Routes to School program to all schools.
2. Continue to expand your public education campaign promoting the Share the Road message. **Committee Comments:** The addition of “bicycles may use full lane” signs may be helpful here.
3. Offer bicycling skills training opportunities for adults more frequently. **Committee Comments:** There is the possibility of partnering with Local Motion to do this. It may also be helpful to have an event like Cycle de Mayo that is aimed at adults, rather than children.

Encouragement

1. Expand encouragement efforts during Bike Month.
2. Promote cycling throughout the year by offering or supporting more family-oriented community rides, and bicycle-themed festivals, parades or shows. **Committee Comments:** Rick said that there were few riders at the Farmer’s Market rides, and this is probably not the best location to do a ride. Raj suggested doing a bike ride in the woods to attract more people.
3. Encourage more local businesses, agencies, and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business program. Your community’s government should be the model employer for local businesses. **Committee Comments:** Jud suggested working with the Chamber of Commerce on this issue.

Enforcement

1. Police officers should be initially and repeatedly educated on traffic law as it applies to bicycles and motorists.
2. Pass additional ordinances that protect cyclists.

Committee Comments: More work needs to be done to engage the Essex Police before trainings or ordinances are implemented.

Evaluation & Planning

1. Conduct community-wide research on bicycle usage to more efficiently distribute resources according to demand. **Committee Comments:** Rick suggested doing counts while school is in session, and possible setting goals for bicycle use.

Rick suggested that the committee take on one of the “E” categories each year prior to applying for silver designation.

5. UPDATE PROJECT PRIORITY LIST

Rick noted that many of our previous priorities have been completed. The list was reviewed and the following were deemed complete, or at least as complete as it is possible for them to be.

- Adjust loops & pain stopping points;
- Replace missing signs and trim trees;
- Improve crosswalk signage and flagging;
- Improve crosswalk safety;
- Complete a Bike/Walk Master Plan;
- Hold a Bike/Walk festival.

6. PUBLIC INPUT & OTHER

Jud asked about the status of the pedestrian path and bridge near ADL? Rick said that the school district is not interested in improving this.

Gabe mentioned that he had researched Fitbit groups, and explained the idea to the committee. All agreed that forming an Essex Junction Fitbit group was a good idea. He explained that residents can participate by using their phones or a Fitbit tracker.

7. NEXT MEETING & AGENDA

- Next Meeting: November 16th at 5:45 PM
- Agenda Items:
 1. Minutes Review
 2. Develop Task & Project Priority List
 3. Discuss Go! Vermont Grant
 4. Public Input

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY MICAH, SECOND BY GABE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville.