

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

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

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations/Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITONS

MOTION BY JUD, SECOND BY JEFF TO ADD DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PEARL STREET BIKE LANE/MULTI-USE PATH, AND DISCUSSION OF RECENT TRUSTEES MEETING TO MEETING AGENDA. MOTION PASSED.

Jud asked that it be noted at this time that he had met with Brad LaRose, Essex Police Chief, and that he recommended contacting Lt. Rob Hall, to see if he would like to attend committee meetings. Eric said that he would reach out to him.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

MOTION BY JUD, SECOND BY GABE TO ACCEPT OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED.

4. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PEARL STREET BIKE LANE/MULTI-USE PATH

Rick explained to the committee that VTrans would be milling and paving all of the five legs of Five Corners next summer. As a part of this, the Village has requested to have a bike lane or multi-use path included on Pearl Street, from West Street to Susie Wilson Road. The goal of this path would be for it to connect to a larger bike/pedestrian project on this corridor, leading to Lime Kiln Road. However, VTrans has told the Village that this project needs to be scoped before it can be included.

Therefore, Rick has proposed that the Village requests that VTrans gap out (not complete) this section until scoping is complete. He added that this scoping study could also look at lowering the speed limit in this area as well. Scoping would be conducted by the CCRPC.

Rick informed the committee that scoping generally takes around a year to complete, and construction can be reasonably expected 3-4 years after scoping.

After some discussion regarding the type of path preferable in this location, the committee passed the following motion:

MOTION BY RAJ, SECOND BY PHOEBE STATING THAT THE BIKE/WALK COMMITTEE FORMALLY SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF GAPING OUT THE SECTION OF PEARL STREET BETWEEN WEST STREET EXTENTION AND SUSIE WILSON ROAD, AND SAVING THESE FUNDS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THIS AREA, ONCE SCOPING HAS BEEN COMPLETED. MOTION PASSED.

5. DISCUSSION OF RECENT TRUSTEES MEETING

Phoebe said that she had recently attended a Trustees meeting, and was appointed to the CCRPC Active Transportation Plan Committee. While she was there, she noticed that some bike/walk issues came up.

A midblock crosswalk was requested on Pearl Street, near the ANR property. Rick said that this has been requested several times before; however the speeds in the area are too high to warrant it. A sign notifying motorists that there are pedestrians crossing over the next 1,500 feet is present. He also noted that some of the lights in this area are turned off, and that it would be much brighter, and thus easier for pedestrians to be seen, if they were all turned on.

MOTION BY JUD, SECOND BY RAJ STATING THAT THE BIKE/WALK COMMITTEE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THE TRUSTEES CONSIDER A STUDY TO LOOK AT UPGRADING SIGNAGE ON PEARL STREET, DROPPING THE SPEED LIMIT TO 25, AND GOING BACK TO THE ORIGINAL LIGHTING SCHEME AROUND CVE. MOTION PASSED.

Rick said that he would discuss both motions with the municipal manager.

The committee also expressed interest in keeping as many lights as possible on during the hours that the bus is in operation.

Jud asked who would be responsible for completing the aforementioned study. Rick said that the Village Engineer would be responsible for this, with the help of the police.

Eric noted that two people asked for flashing crosswalks at the town office at a recent Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. Rick was happy to report that VTrans also believes that this is necessary, and plans on putting them in when the roadway is repaved.

6. GO! VERMONT GRANT

Phoebe mentioned that she noticed this grant in the Clean City Coalition newsletter. The Go! Vermont program has a rolling application, and she was not able to find much information online.

Some of the things suggested to use these funds for include: bike parking, traffic counts, pedestrian projects, additional signage, mapping and training for police officers.

The group agreed to revisit this opportunity after updating the project priority list.

7. UPDATE PROJECT PRIORITY LIST

The updated short and medium term goals are below:

Short Term

- Increase police collaboration;
- Develop bike maps;
- Increase awareness of road rules;
- Hold a bike festival;
- Educate adults and children, emphasizing skills, and working with the local schools.

Medium Term

- Collaborate with adjoining communities, reach out to Essex Trails Committee;
- Improve crosswalk safety;
- Advocate for development of West Street/ANR/Route 15 link;
- Encourage walking busses;
- Improve public bike racks.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

9. NEXT MEETING & AGENDA

- Next Meeting: TBD
- Agenda Items:
 1. Minutes Review;
 2. Update Long Term Project Priority List;
 3. Rank Priority Projects;
 4. Public Input.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Micah mentioned that he had finished creating a Fitbit group for Essex Junction. He will be sending the link to the rest of the committee shortly.

**MOTION BY GABE, SECOND BY MICAH TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 6:52 PM.**

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville.