

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018 AT 5:45 PM
LINCOLN HALL
AGENDA

- Minutes Review;
- VT 15 Susie Wilson to West St. Ext. Public Meeting Update and Possible Endorsement;
 - Discuss Possible Community Pedestrian / Bike Survey;
 - Discuss 2018 Goals;
 - Public Input.

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
February 12, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Raj Chawla, Jud Lawrie, Eric Bowker, Phoebe Spencer (via Skype), Jeff Frolik, Micah Hagan

OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Scheld

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations/Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Raj called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM. He began by asking guest Patrick Scheld to introduce himself to the committee and discuss his interests regarding biking and walking.

2. MINUTES REVIEW

Raj said that he wanted it to be noted that he would only suggest that the BWAC merge with the Conservation & Trails Committee if Essex Junction and Essex were to merge.

MOTION BY RAJ, SECOND BY JEFF TO ACCEPT JANUARY MEETING MINUTES, WITH CHANGES. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.

3. UPDATE ON PUBLIC MEETING RE. BIKE PATH ON VT 15

Raj noted that this meeting was very well-attended, with standing room only. He had e-mailed the power point presentation to the BWAC for their review.

Raj asked the BWAC if they would be interested in making a recommendation on a preferred project alternative to the project committee. All were interested in doing so.

Raj noted that the project committee anticipates having a final recommendation completed in June, and suggested attending future project committee meetings to review the findings.

The BWAC brought up an image of Alternative #3 on the computer screen to discuss it. This alternative includes three lanes of car travel, and a bike lane on each side of the street.

Raj noted that recently planted trees could prove an impediment to this alternative, and offered the possibility of moving them.

Phoebe suggested that the speed limit on Pearl Street be lowered, as 45 seems too high for a residential area.

The committee discussed the fact that some of the alternatives require cyclists to move between sides of the road. This is not ideal, as it can discourage inexperienced cyclists from using the lanes.

Jeff offered the suggestion that some of the car travel lanes could shrink to allow space for cyclists on each side of the road.

Raj proposed the idea of offering a path along Pinecrest Drive, and through Pearl Street Park. He believes that this would get used by a wider variety of riders. It may lengthen the trip, but would make it considerably safer. The path could re-connect with Pearl Street at West Street Extension.

Phoebe asked if this would be within the scope of the Route 15 project?

Raj was unsure, but would ask the project committee. He also added that this type of path would be more likely to be vandalized, and would need to be maintained in the winter.

The committee went back to discussing the three-lane project alternative. Raj said that he feels that some type reflective bollards would be needed to separate cyclists from motorists. All agree.

Raj noted that it is only a 15-minute trip to Winooski from Essex Junction by bike, and if there was a separated path throughout Route 15 more people may choose to use it as a method of transportation to the greater Burlington area.

Micah noted that this would fit in with Local Motion's goal of connecting towns through bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Micah will write up the BWAC's discussion to send to the project committee.

4. POSSIBLE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Not discussed.

5. 2018 GOALS

Raj said that spring was coming soon, and that it is important to begin thinking about upcoming projects, events, etc. He suggested holding a group ride in the evening to find possible problem areas in the Village. He expects that this will take around two hours, and will send a Doodle to committee members to schedule.

Eric asked if committee meetings could be pushed back to 6 PM. All agreed.

Jeff asked if the ANR crossing could be re-considered by the committee. Raj said that he thought that the reason this project was taken off the table was due to the fact that it required a

midblock crossing. However, he noted that there is a midblock crossing further down the road on Pearl Street for the Fairgrounds.

Jeff said that he had been previously told that there was not enough pedestrian traffic to allow for this, but perhaps this could be improved if a crossing was available.

Eric said that it is important to grow the committee. Jeff noted that it would be good to have a pedestrian perspective. Raj suggested putting up a notice at Fleet Feet to attract joggers/walkers to the committee vacancy.

6. PUBLIC INPUT & OTHER

Raj noted that the placement of the bike repair station would be potentially approved by the Trustees at their next meeting. The Village would be responsible for \$500 of the cost, the Go! Vermont grant would be responsible for another \$500, and Nest Café has agreed to cover the remainder of the cost.

7. NEXT MEETING & AGENDA

The next meeting will be held on March 19 at 6 PM. Agenda items will include:

- Minutes Review;
- ANR Crossing;
- Route 15 Project Recommendations;
- Public Input.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY JUD, SECOND BY RAJ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 7 PM.**

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville.