

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE/WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018 AT 5:45 PM
LINCOLN HALL
AGENDA**

- Discuss Pearl Street Crossing - ANR - Harley Davidson;
- CCRPC VT15 Bicycle / Pedestrian Study Finalize Comment Submission;
 - Schedule BWAC Community Ride;
 - Discuss Proposed Park Street / McEwing Project;
 - Minutes Review.

*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
March 19, 2018**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Carolyn West

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations/Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Raj called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

2. MINUTES REVIEW

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

3. PEARL STREET CROSSING

Raj noted that he was not able to find anything in former committee chair Rick Hamlin's files regarding this project. Jeff told him that a grant was written, and several UVM students did research on this project.

Jeff noted that even if no other changes are possible, it is important to push for a lower speed limit in this area.

4. CCRPC ROUTE 15 BIKE/PEDESTRIAN STUDY COMMENTS

Micah passed around a draft committee recommendation. Darby will show it to Unified Manager Evan Teich to see if any type of approval is needed for the committee to send this to the CCRPC. The draft recommendation is below:

The Village of Essex Junction Bike Walk Advisory Committee (BWAC) supports the adoption of the "Alternative Plan" presented on January 22, 2018. This plan includes five-foot bike lanes with three-foot buffers (one in each direction.) The BWAC would like to suggest the addition of some sort of vertical physical barrier such as flexible, reflective poles, to separate vehicle traffic from bicycle traffic. In addition, we would like to see a change in speed limit from the current 45 mph to 30 mph for the segment of road under consideration, with a transition to 25 mph at the intersection of Rt. 15/Pearl Street with West Street Extension heading east into Essex Junction.

We do not currently have an opinion on how to transition riders from the multi-use path ending at Ethan Allen Avenue to this segment and acknowledge that that remains a significant obstacle.

5. BWAC COMMUNITY RIDE

This will be postponed until April or May due to the snow cover.

6. PROPOSED PARK STREET PROJECT

The plans for the development at 4-36 Park Street were displayed on the screen. Raj noted that he had some safety concerns regarding the diagonal parking and the bike lanes. Phoebe suggested putting the bike lanes inside of the parking area, with a physical barrier. This would help to ensure that cars do not back into bicyclists.

Jeff noted that the developer plans to join CATMA (Campus Area Transit Management Association), which would allow residents significant perks relating to public transit and bicycling. He suggested that the developer be encouraged to connect this project with the bike path near the Riverside Apartments.

Eric was concerned about adding additional lights, due to the congestion already present on 2A. He noted that while the Crescent Connector may help congestion at the Five Corners, it will not help alleviate the traffic on 2A that is caused by too many traffic lights.

Micah said that while it will not fix the congestion issues on 2A, at least it will do something to help.

Jeff said that the sidewalks across the street at 4 Pearl Street are too large. He believes that the sidewalk should have been smaller in order to accommodate for a bike lane. He also expressed concern that there is not enough parking in this area for retail stores to want to move in.

Raj noted that it would be a good idea to ask the developer to put in covered bike parking in this location.

Raj will e-mail the committee's thoughts to the Planning Commission. He also noted that this project only has conceptual approval from the Village and needs much more work to be done before it is ready to construct.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

Carolyn noted that she had brought up concerns regarding the police being unable to give her a ride home due to unsafe crossing conditions. She said that last weekend she had called the police to report that she had found a cell phone, and they came right away to pick it up. She felt that they were paying more attention to a lost cell phone than a pedestrian issue.

Raj suggested that she speak to the Sectboard regarding police priorities.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 16 at 6 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY JUD, SECOND BY RAJ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Darby Mayville.