



**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, November 13, 2019 8:15 AM**

**City Hall, Second Floor**  
**Second Floor Conference Room**

**Members:**

Dillon Benik, Chair	Charles Redfern
Drew Bryenton, Vice Chair	Todd Horner
Brad Dufresne	David Souther, Alternate
Christopher Brehme	

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) September 11, 2019 Minutes
- 3) Chair's Update to Council Committee (MSFI)
- 4) Membership
- 5) Old Business
  - City Council Referral 160 Emerald Street, Sale of City Property Update
  - Fall Bicycle & Pedestrian Counting Update
  - Dedication of Path System Section (Thom Little)
  - Arts and Culture Corridor
- 6) Project Updates  
(Note: BPPAC Master Plan Documents available on google drive)
- 7) New Business
  - Items to be included for next meeting
- 8) More Time
  - Public Outreach and Events Subcommittee
  - Downtown Bike Racks & Winter Parking
  - New Trailhead near the Food Network Trail System
- 9) Adjournment

Next meeting date – December 11, 2019

City of Keene  
New Hampshire

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**Members:**

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Brad Dufresne  
Christopher Brehme  
Charles Redfern  
Todd Horner  
David Souther, Alternate

**Staff:**

Will Schoefmann, City GIS Technician  
Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Rhett Lamb

**Members not present:**

Drew Bryenton, Vice Chair

**1) Roll Call**

Chair Benik called the meeting to order at 8:16 am and roll call was conducted.

**2) August 14, 2019 Minutes**

Mr. Redfern moved to accept the August 14, 2019 minutes, Mr. Dufresne seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**3) Council Referral (FOP) Request to Purchase City Property: 160 Emerald Street**

Mr. Schoefmann said the State and City were exploring who owned the property near the Rail Trail. Mr. Schoefmann stated that the minutes from 2011 mentioned that the Shallado property had come up as well. He said after careful analysis they now they have documentation that the City owns the property. Mr. Schoefmann said that Mr. Tousley has made a current request to purchase the property. He said there is a 2015 aerial photo that shows the property unpaved and another in 2019 which shows its present day state.

Mr. Tousley stated that there has been investment interest for development in that area for a while. He said most of the interests are aimed at increasing parking capacity and since then he was able to extend the Gilbo Avenue connection of the bike path and that strip of the bike path took 8-9 feet away from Emerald street parking. He said the focus has been so much on Main Street instead of Emerald Street and took away 20 parking spaces which has exacerbated the problem. Mr. Tousley said there are seven retail businesses in his building and parking is a problem. Numerous offices, hair dressers, all affordable, local businesses. He stated that this is a very important piece of the local economy and it will benefit him as a landowner as well as the

local businesses. Mr. Tousley stated that Mr. Redfern has emphasized the importance of having a trailhead; however, he does not think there is any reason to have a trailhead in Keene.

Mr. Redfern stated that the retail businesses are not the ones experiencing a need for more parking and the tenant users are the ones in need of parking. He asked Mr. Tousley when he took ownership of the facility and Mr. Toby replied in 2007. Mr. Redfern noted that the prior owner used the area in question for parking and Mr. Tousley has had the benefit of not paying the State for the use of those lots. He further stated that Mr. Tousley invested in placing putting asphalt down for around \$100K. Mr. Lamb stated that the City did not do any research on ownership of the property until a couple of months ago. Mr. Benik asked if Mr. Tousley is requesting to buy from this southerly border. Mr. Tousley said they have already lost 15 spaces and the parking lot is primarily for employees of those businesses. Mr. Redfern stated that the City code's charge items include that they make reports and recommendations to City Council and City Staff about the management and infrastructure of bike trails and paths. He stated that he envisions the possibility of a trailhead, or a pocket park in that location, therefore, there are a number of reasons for the City maintaining control of that area. He noted that, however, there may be a way to accommodate Mr. Tousley's desire to acquire additional parking spots. Mr. Redfern proposed that the City lease the parking spaces to Mr. Tousley, taking into consideration the improvements Mr. Tousley has made in the parking capacity. He stated that he believes this decision would generate better returns for the City than an outright sale and allow the City to retain control of City infrastructure (bicycle and paths).

Chair Benik stated that BPPAC are advocates for the bike paths and pedestrians and there may be something to Mr. Redfern's plan, however, he does not see an upside to the City selling Mr. Tousley the proposed land. Mr. Lamb noted that the City could make the point that the space is an important decision point for going east or west, and as a stopping point that can be developed into a park or a food truck location along Emerald Street. He said while the City is sympathetic to Mr. Tousley's parking situation, he recommends that the City retain the property for a period of time before deciding if they want to develop it for some future use. Mr. Bohannon noted to keep in mind that this is the intersection between the Cheshire Rail Trail and Ashuelot Rail Trail and there are potential improvements for that space between the City of Keene and Swanzey. Mr. Dufresne asked if there could be a financial gain from a sale with a provision towards maintaining it as green space. Mr. Redfern stated that the City does not like to sell property and keep revenue for specific purposes as they keep it in a general revenue pot. Mr. Bohannon added that when they sold the land to Eversource behind Wheelock Park they put the money back into Wheelock Park. Mr. Schoefmann stated that in the project update table that is updated monthly, BPPAC has prioritized the Emerald Star concept which would translate into a single spot for information as in a hub of trail information.

Mr. Brehme asked what will happen to the property if they do not sell it to Mr. Tousley. Mr. Lamb replied that there is no specific CIP project but there have been some early concepts. He said a lease-back seems appropriate but that would be up to City Council. Mr. Redfern stated that the recommendation is not to sell the property and let City Council weigh in and understand Mr. Tousley's side of the problem and they can come up with some remedy. It is between balancing control of the property and accommodating Mr. Tousley's situation. He said the only upside would be to accommodate businesses, but they are still not sure about how the Arts Corridor will affect the needs of cyclists.

**Chair Benik moved that they recommend to City Council to not sell the property to Mr. Tousley, Mr. Redfern seconded and the motion passed 5-1 with Mr. Dufresne voting against the recommendation.**

Mr. Horner stated that it is in the best interest of the City to retain the opportunity to evaluate the future use of that partial before making a final decision. Chair Benik agreed that this discussion might be different in a year or a few months.

#### **4) Old Business**

##### **- Downtown Bike Racks & Winter Parking**

Mr. Schoefmann stated that he will be delivering a presentation to an outdoor recreation class at Keene State College (KSC) who will be helping the City with bike parking, bike and pedestrian counts and West Street bike counts for next week (9/14-9/21). He said he sent out a Doodle Poll for the West Street counts last week and he can resend it if members did not have a chance to sign up for counts. He said hopefully KSC students will help with the morning slots. Mr. Schoefmann said there are about 18 students working on the project so that will greatly increase their overall counting power. Mr. Redfern asked what dates are being proposed. Mr. Schoefmann said the Saturday times are strictly between noon and 2 pm. He said they will tackle three locations on the West Street corridor and they will possibly take a stroll downtown to count bikes on bike racks. Mr. Souther asked if they can differentiate between Green Bikes and other bikes to gauge how many of the bikes are KSC student bikes. Mr. Schoefmann said he has not come up with a bike rack count data sheet yet but he will create a simple one as well as gauge what the capacity is on each rack. He said he will have the capacities listed on the count sheet for members to see.

Mr. Schoefmann stated that they can also identify one or two locations to promote as covered winter parking. He said the awning by the Yolo shop is a potential location, as well as the spot across from the Monadnock Co-Op. He said the latter is moveable so it would make it easier for Department of Public Works to perform winter maintenance. Mr. Schoefmann encouraged further ideas for covered parking. He said BPPAC can also make a request that Mr. Schoefmann convey pertinent winter bike parking information to Mr. Lundquist.

##### **- Dedication of Path System Section (Thom Little)**

Mr. Schoefmann stated that request was fast cycled and by BPPAC's next meeting it should be approved by City Council. Mr. Redfern stated that he is the liaison between Pathways For Keene (PFK) and BPPAC and he informed PFK that the trail would be called "Little Way." He said that PFK is requesting that they add Mr. Little's first name (Thom) in the title of the trail as well. Mr. Schoefmann replied that the idea was to create a small dedication plaque to Mr. Little. He proposed that PFK provide funding for the plaque. Mr. Bohannon added that the idea was to highlight Mr. Little's many contributions to the trail system. He said the name of the trail would be "Little Way" and the plaque would have a serve as a memorial to Mr. Little's contributions. Mr. Schoefmann added that they made need some small financial assistance to purchase the plaque. Mr. Bohannon replied that that he will look into quotes. Mr. Horner asked what the argument is against having it be called "Thom Little Way" and Mr. Schoefmann said there is already a precedent with another trail dedicated to someone called Appel Way. Members agreed to let Council decide at the October 3 City Council meeting.

##### **- Public Outreach and Events Subcommittee**

Mr. Redfern stated that he found a document written by the Rail Trail Conservancy on marketing and outreach. He said he will make a copy and discuss it with the committee in October. Members agreed.

##### **- Arts and Culture Corridor**

Mr. Schoefmann said BPPAC has expressed interest in learning more about the Arts and Culture Corridor project in the past, and he forwarded an email to members regarding a public input session with the consultants on the project. He said there are various slots that people can RSVP to and attend the informational sessions. Mr. Redfern noted that it is very important that BPPAC members show up to promote and advocate for the importance of the multi-use trails. Chair Benik stated that there are four different time slots and a pop-up tent and he encouraged members to attend. Mr. Bohannon said they are going to have a public forum for further discussion.

### **5) Project Updates**

(Note: BPPAC Master Plan Documents available on google drive)

Mr. Schoefmann stated most of the striping has been completed downtown including the sharoes and bike boxes. Mr. Souther noted that the City did all the pedestrian striping after the college kids came into town and maybe next year they should consider doing that before people arrive. Mr. Schoefmann agreed and said they had a new contractor this year which impacted the scheduling.

### **Cheshire Rail Trail-Park Avenue Loop**

Mr. Schoefmann stated that the anticipated date of construction for the Cheshire Rail Trail-Park Avenue loop is next year. He said the right-of-way discussions are wrapping up and easement and trail resolutions have been passed by Council. He said they are removing the class 6 trail and making it a class 2 trail which is higher level of trail. Mr. Bohannon said there were negotiations with CNS and the condo association which have been wrapped up. Mr. Schoefmann said the final design plans and the bid for a construction company will follow and he will let BPPAC know as soon as he learns more.

### **West Street Complete Street Project Counting**

Mr. Schoefmann said Main Street facilities have been completed and he will aim to have KSC students conduct counts in downtown and he will also be conducting counts in downtown for reporting out for Complete Streets grant.

Mr. Bohannon stated that before Council tomorrow night the New England Mountain Bike Association will donate infrastructure for a pump track in Wheelock Park. They will be raising about \$25K in funds and anticipate completion of the pump track next spring.

Members agreed that it would be great to have a trailhead as the trail is in really good condition all the way out to Walpole. They agreed to discuss this idea further.

### **6) New Business (Items to be included for next meeting)**

-Discuss a trailhead co-located next to the Food Network trail system.

### **7) Adjournment**

Chair Benik adjourned the meeting at 9:18 am.

### **Next meeting date – October 9, 2019**

Minutes respectfully submitted by,  
Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, City of Keene Minute-Taker  
Additional Edits submitted by,  
Will Schoefmann, Community Development Staff

Project	PRIORITY	Master Plan Project #	Status	Budget *		Schedule			Updates (changes and relevant updates)
				Cost	Status	Start	Finish	Status	
Master Plan	N/A	N/A	Working	City Staff	N/A	Spring14	Fall 2018	Behind	Introduction and Background available for BPPAC Review, Trail Specific Maps and details regarding North Bridge inserted. Developing a scope of work and seeking funding to hire a consultant to complete the plan.
Jonathan Daniels Trail Maintenance	N/A	BE4	Planning	25,000.00	Even	Summer20	Fall 21	N/A	\$25k set aside in CIP FY' 21
Bike Racks	N/A	BE28	Working	N/A	N/A	ongoing	N/A	N/A	Bike Racks set out by DPW - downtown plan attached to June Agenda/Packet. <b>BPPAC to suggest Winter Parking Locations. Counting 9/14-21 with help of KSC Geography Class</b>
Lighting	N/A	BE28	Completed	City Staff	Even	complete	N/A	On Schedule	Pathways for Keene are making an additional donation this year to the City. Proposal is to light Appel Way.
Complete Street Grant 2017-18	N/A	N/A	Completed	\$10K	Even	complete	May-18	On Schedule	Lining has been redone as part of DPW's road striping budget. Project signage has been installed. City Staff needs to follow up on the metrics with SWRPC including Bike Counts in the project area, a final PSA, accident research. <b>Lack of funding for these facilities is an issue in the striping budget</b>
NHDOT TAP Grant 2018	N/A	BE22	Submitted	\$674K	N/A	Winter 2018	Summer 19	On Schedule	City of Keene has been selected as a TAP grant recipient for Complete Street improvements to Marlboro Street that tie into other planned improvements, infrastructure, economic development goals and the Cheshire Rail Trail. Funding issues between FHWA and NHDOT possibility of longer range date of completion. Engineering working on avoiding the impending funding delay
Bicycle Mayor	N/A	N/A	Working	Safe Routes to School	Even	Winter 2018	Fall 2019	On Schedule	Bicycle Mayor Tiffany Mannion's two year term is up in October. Staff is checking in to see if she is considering another term or will be holding nominations for candidates.
<b>MASTER PLAN PROJECTS</b>									
Cheshire Rail Trail - Park Ave. Loop	1	BE0	Working	\$411,615.51	Even	Spring19	Fall 19	Behind	Engineering division of DPW is managing this project now. Preliminary Engineering Plans and Report as well as NEPA review approved by NHDOT/FHWA. Anticipated construction 2020. ROW discussions and negotiations underway with abutters. Easement and trail resolutions passed by City Council. City Assessor has complete the waiver valuation process for ROW.
Access Point & Connectivity Analysis	2	BE13	Planning	KSC Students	N/A	Fall 2018	Dec-18	On Schedule	Master Plan top 5 project. Staff is working with a Group of KSC Geography Seniors in the capstone seminar project to help analyze connectivity and develop a Complete Streets "report card"

Wayfinding	3	BE15	Planning	City Staff Unknown	N/A	Planning	N/A	On Schedule	Continued development of the downtown "pedestrian" level wayfinding is being conducted. What is BPPAC's input? Trail and in street level wayfinding thoughts/plan?
Complete Streets Assessment	4	BE20	Working	City Staff	N/A	ongoing	N/A	N/A	Master Plan top 5 project. KSC Geography Students conducted an assessment of City Streets based on their Complete Street designations and current layouts. See "Access Point & Connectivity". A report is available via google drive. Student presentation at regular June meeting.
Sidewalk/Pedestrian Connectivity	5	BE21	Planning	City Staff	N/A	Planning	N/A	N/A	The Engineering Division, Department of Public Works has an app available to them and have completed 65% of the condition assessment of all City Owned sidewalks for Spring 2017.
West Street - Complete Street	6	BE26	Planning	City Staff Unknown	N/A	Planning	N/A	N/A	Designated as a Gateway Street in the Complete Street Design Guide. BPPAC discussing interim and long range solutions for bike/ped facilities along the corridor. BPPAC began 2018 bike/ped counts for middle section of West Street in March and May counts compiled. <b>September 14-21 dates with help of KSC Geography students to assist.</b>
Cheshire Rail Trail Phase 4 - Transportation Heritage Trail	7&8	BE2, BE5	Planning	\$ 2,564,500.00	Even	N/A	N/A	N/A	Project submitted as a supplemental CIP - unfunded but in the plan book. Project includes from Eastern Ave - 101, Bridge to Span 101, improvements to Old Stone Arch Bridge and potential crossing at Swanzy Factor Rd.
South Bridge, Ashuelot RT Gap	9	BE16		City Staff, KSC	N/A	Planning	N/A	N/A	Pave or surface the gap between the old Railroad Bridge on the Ashuelot Rail Trail and South Bridge
Main Street (Complete Street)	10	BE18	Planning	City Staff	Under	Planning	N/A	On Schedule	Main Street is an icon to the Keene community and in need of multimodal transportation overhaul. DPW has a downtown revitalization CIP that is multi year. <b>KSC Crossing in process of completion, in street facilities issues (bike lanes, sharrows and bike boxes) How does BPPAC fit in and provide input? Downtown Bike Rack Counts Sept 14-21 with KSC Geography</b>
Emerald Star (Trail Info Hub)	11	N/A		City Staff	N/A	Planning	N/A	N/A	Concept of an "Emerald Star" or trail system that has a centralized point for gathering and trail system information. Kiosk/visitor center included.

ITEMS WITH UPDATES

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ITEMS WITH UPDATES



City of Keene, N.H.  
*Transmittal Form*

September 26, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Keene City Council  
**FROM:** Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee  
**ITEM:** D.11.

**SUBJECT:** Request to Purchase City Property - 160 Emerald Street/Ashuelot Rail Trail

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**COUNCIL ACTION:**

In City Council October 3, 2019.  
Voted unanimously to carry out the intent of the report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

On 5-0 vote, the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee recommends the City Manager enter into lease negotiations with Mr. Tousley for property located at 160 Emerald Street adjacent to the Ashuelot Rail Trail.

**BACKGROUND:**

Asst. City Manager, Rhett Lamb and Public Works Director Kurt Blomquist were the next two speakers. Mr. Lamb stated he is before the Finance Committee to report back from the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee. He handed the committee several maps of the property located at 160 Emerald Street. Mr. Lamb stated the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee (BPPAC) spent quite a bit of time on this item and ultimately recommended the City retain this property recognizing that only recently it was confirmed the City owned this property.

This land area is north of Davis Street, he also noted to the Shaldhu property, which is a narrow finger of land (improperly labeled on the map). The property Mr. Tousley is interested in is located on the west side at the intersection of Emerald Street where the property widens to a Y.

The BPPAC wants to make sure the City does not have any future use for this property. The Committee felt this could be an area to locate an information kiosk, a location for food trucks, green space area etc. There are interesting things happening on Emerald Street – arts corridor. The Committee did recognize the applicant has been using this property for a while. The committee suggested a lease of some kind should the Council approve such a recommendation.

Mr. Tousley addressed the committee next. Mr. Tousley stated as much as he would like to purchase the piece he had originally proposed he would settle for the piece he was parking on. He stated the proposed area the BPPAC is referring to has approximately 100 feet in addition to the portion he is referring to. He felt the trailhead is counterproductive to what the City is proposing (having people drive to this area) and then getting on the path.

Mr. Tousley stated the bike path exists because of the beautiful downtown. He referred to the numerous tenants, which include a variety of businesses that occupy his building. He also noted to the fact that his is the

only building that has a solar array. However, these businesses are in jeopardy because of lack of parking and added the bike path has already eliminated most of the street parking. Mr. Tousley added even if he was to get a lease for this parking he is afraid the City would someday take that away as well. He indicated what he is providing for on Emerald Street is everything the City envisions for its economic plan.

He referred to the risk he took with Tim Pipp when he initially got started and he is now the owner of Beez Tees. Mr. Tousley noted he has put in place items 1 and 2 outlined in the Economic Development Plan but stated he was concerned about parking and pointed out the area he is referring to is the ignored end of Emerald Street where parking has already been eliminated without any consideration given to his business.

The Manager stated Mr. Tousley makes a compelling argument as the City is looking to support existing businesses. She added it is easier to support an existing business than to bring in new ones. She indicated the Council has a difficult task as the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee has a put in a lot of work and the work that they are doing is amazing and it is an important part of this community. The Manager asked whether there is a compromise here – she wasn't sure what that was but it was worth considering.

Councilor Jacobs clarified the portion Mr. Tousley is proposing to purchase is the portion he is already using. Mr. Tousley agreed. He stated his original request to the State was a triangular piece from about six to eight feet from the bike path. Mr. Lamb noted the red outlined box on the map is based on aerial photography of the area Mr. Tousley has paved.

Councilor Clark suggested an easement – to sell the area that has already been improved to the petitioner with an easement for use by anyone who uses the trailhead. Mr. Lamb stated the BPPAC did bring up the issue with a trailhead but this was not part of the consideration as there is City parking that already exists in the vicinity.

Councilor Powers asked the City Attorney whether a lease versus an easement would be more prudent under these circumstances. Attorney Mullins stated a lease negotiated between the Manager and the petitioner would be appropriate and a lease could entail many options. The Councilor stated he is not inclined to sell the property at this time but would like to see Mr. Tousley continue doing what he is doing and solve some of the issues he is facing.

Councilor Jacobs stated he is in favor of selling the property as this type of issue has come forward in the past where an individual owns the building but the city owns the land and when the owner wants to make improvements to the building there this is when negotiations happen.

Mr. Blomquist stated this is an instance that happens often on City owned property in the right of way where people start using the property and as time goes by there is an assumption made about ownership of property.

Councilor Chadbourne stated she feels like Mr. Tousley made a compelling argument and felt there is enough buffer around the trailhead to accommodate any future vision the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee has and felt both can be accomplished. Chair Greenwald felt it was important to consider the recommendation from the Committee.

Councilor Clark stated an option for the petitioner and the City to be able to use this property needs to be considered. The property is paved and is being used but did not feel it needs to be sold at this time.

Chair Greenwald asked if a lease is being considered why the area could not be expanded. Councilor Clark stated there is greenspace and if the City starts encroaching on greenspace it is going to start losing its luster. Mr. Tousley stated he has no intention of taking any of the greenspace away – just the area that is being used right now. He further stated with the expansion of Keene State College they do not have enough parking in the area and if this is turned into parking it will not be for trailhead use it will be for college parking. He reiterated his fear of someday losing this area of parking with the City providing no notice to him. If it was a lease, he asked

for a long term lease.

Councilor Chadbourne stated she respects the recommendation from BPPAC but would not want to expand this area more than what exists right now. She felt a pocket park or a trailhead could be accomplished in the given area and as has been pointed out by staff there is parking elsewhere in this vicinity and people can always walk to this trail from that location.

It was clarified by staff that Mr. Tousley plows this area currently.

The Chair asked for the Manager's input. Ms. Dragon stated what she is hearing is that Mr. Tousley is not opposed to a lease as long as it is a long term lease and felt this might be a good compromise and this was also one of the recommendations from the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee.

Councilor Clark made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Powers.

On 5-0 vote, the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee recommends the City Manager enter into lease negotiations with Mr. Tousley.

Councilor Jacobs noted if the city in the future plans on selling this portion of land Mr. Tousley be provided with the right of first refusal. Staff agreed.



City of Keene, N.H.  
*Transmittal Form*

September 25, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Keene City Council

**FROM:** Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

**ITEM:** D.1.

**SUBJECT:** Dedication of Path System Cheshire Rail Trail Section (Thom Little)

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**COUNCIL ACTION:**

In City Council October 3, 2019.

Voted unanimously to carry out the intent of the report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

On a vote of 5-0, the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee recommended that staff be directed to draft a resolution dedicating a section of the Cheshire Rail Trail to the memory of Thom Little.

**BACKGROUND:**

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, said the Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee (BPPAC) discussed the death of Thom Little at their recent meeting. Mr. Little worked for more than 20 years as a trails advocate in Keene and Cheshire County. The BPPAC wants to commemorate Mr. Little's efforts; his passing is a void in the trail advocacy community. The BPPAC decided to name a section of the Cheshire Rail Trail connector loop from Emerald Street to Island Street in his honor, as it was one of the last path projects Mr. Little worked on. The BPPAC considered naming the section of the trail as "Little Way," with signage similar to "Appel Way." Mr. Bohannon continued reading the criteria for naming a facility after a person; one of the five criteria must be met for a name change:

1. A well-known community leader, either elected, appointed or volunteer.
2. A person who has positively influenced a large populace of the City through a significant contribution of money, time, material, or land.
3. An individual who has had a major involvement in the acquisition or development of the facility.
4. An individual whose civic leadership or volunteerism clearly has contributed to the betterment of the City.
5. An individual who is deceased and whose personal attributes symbolized the principles and standards of a community organization.

Mr. Bohannon said he and the BPPAC thought Mr. Little met all five criteria. He welcomed questions.

Councilor Sutherland noted the section of trail proposed for renaming is approximately 200' – 300' and he thought "Little Way" could be misinterpreted as just a small section of trail. Councilor Sutherland suggested naming the trail "Thom Little Way" so it is a more specific dedication as opposed to a trail description. Mr. Bohannon thought that was a good consideration and might be more appropriate. He added that there would also be information at a trail point commemorating Mr. Little's efforts.

Chair Manwaring recognized the President of Pathways for Keene, Wink Faulkner, who was friends with Mr. Little and knew his commitment to trails. He agreed with everything that Mr. Bohannon said and agreed with Councilor Sutherland's recommendation to name the trail as "Thom Little Way."

Chair Manwaring recognized Councilor Philip Jones, who is also a member of Pathways for Keene. He thought "Thom Little Way" was a good name for a deserving man, who put a lot of time and effort into Keene's pathway system.

Councilor Sutherland made the following motion, which Councilor Filiault seconded.

On a vote of 5-0, the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee directed staff to draft a resolution dedicating a section of the Cheshire Rail Trail to the memory of Thom Little.

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Todd Horner	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2020	1st
2. Brad Dufresne	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2021	1st
3. Charles Redfern	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2019	2nd
4. David Souther	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2019	1 <sup>st</sup>
5. Drew Bryenton	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2020	1st
6. Christopher Brehme	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2019	2nd
7. Dillon A. Benik	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2021	1st
8. Vacancy, alternate	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2019	exempt
9. Vacancy, alternate	Term to expire Dec. 31, 2019	exempt

Hello members of the committee. I am Dillon Benik, chair of BPPAC and this is [names of present members.] As you know I'm here today to supply a brief update of what the committee has been discussing and working on this past year+, as well as some projection of what we hope to accomplish going forward into 2020. If at any point during my remarks anyone has a question, please don't hesitate to ask, and I'll do my best to answer, or maybe Will or Drew will be able to weigh in.

**Membership:** 2019 has found BPPAC in sort of a transitionary period. While I believe we've succeeded in performing our functions as a committee, there has been some challenges regarding membership. The year saw some membership turnover, as well as the unexpected and tragic loss of a long-time member and ardent advocate for the community in Thom Little.

Working with the new mayor and other leaders in the community to fill our membership holes will be a priority heading into the New Year and first quarter of 2020. We've already started the process internally of reaching out to a few members of organizations like Pathways for Keene and MAST to see if there are folks interested in joining the committee. Of course, these final membership decisions would be made by [Mayor X] and I look forward to hearing their suggestions.

**2019 BPPAC Involvement in City Business:** This past year BPPAC was asked to consider two different requests to purchase city property. I believe these items were referred to us by Council via the FOP committee. Both properties were in the same area of the city and both abutted the Trail System.

The first was a spur of land off of Ralston st that wrapped around a building owned by SHALDU LTD. This piece seemed to us like a harmless strip of land for the City to give up. BPPAC recommended this sale be executed as long as the Rail Trail property was not encroached upon in any way.

The second referral regarded a piece of property owned by Mr. Toby Tousley. It was a parcel of land off of Emerald St, across from the "spur" purchased by SHALDU LTD. After careful consideration and hearing from Mr. Tousley, the committee voted 5-1 to recommend that the city *NOT* sell this property to Mr. Tousley. The committee felt that the area Mr. Tousley looked to purchase (the ownership of which was in question until recently) could have future value to the Trail System. It also seemed that the area at the heart of Mr. Tousleys request was smaller than the area requested for purchase. I believe this recommendation held and the City has entered into lease negotiations for a piece of this area.

### **Bicycle Racks**

BPPAC worked this year with staff and DPW to sort out placement of a bicycle racks about town. Later in the fall traffic counts were conducted with the help of KSC Geography students.

### **Other Activities and Projects**

I mentioned earlier the loss of Thom Little. Needless to say this was a terrible thing, Thom was passionate about Keene, particularly so about our paths and Bike/Ped infrastructure. BPPAC recommended naming a portion of the trail system after him in his honor. This plan was met with enthusiasm by staff and I believe this is moving forward smoothly and you are seeing/have seen a draft resolution this evening.

BPPAC is also exploring creating a Public Outreach and Events subcommittee. A charge is being drafted by a committee member and we will discuss it at our next meeting. The idea is a small group of people dedicated to creating, hosting or promoting events that further or accommodate the interests of



bicyclist and pedestrians in town. I believe this idea was posited when someone mentioned how we missed an opportunity to host some sort of cycling event in conjunction with the Keene Wall Dogs.

**Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan and Pursued Projects:** A lot of our committees work and focus of late has revolved around a Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan and the various projects therein. In late 2012 it was acknowledged by BPPAC and City Staff that an updated masterplan was needed going forward. This plan will guide the development of the City's bicycle and pedestrian facilities and provide tools for their care.

The next few years were spent creating the vision of this plan, outlining goals and zeroing in on projects. By 2016 this big picture work was complete and BPPAC had a list of projects that they prioritized using a matrix they had worked with City Staff to create. 2017 showed BPPAC with a list of 29 projects, five of which we designated as 'top 5 priority.' These projects have been monitored by BPPAC via communication with City Staff. BPPAC has checked in on progress and acted as a sounding board for staff when appropriate or necessary.

These top five are:

- Cheshire Rail Trail – Park Ave Loop
- Access Point & Connectivity Analysis – Staff involved KSC Geography Students
- Wayfinding
- Complete St Assessments – Staff involved KSC Geography Students
- Sidewalk/Pedestrian Connectivity

The top 5 list of projects was expanded loosely early part of 2019 when other project possibilities were identified or when organizational support or perceived importance shifted. One such project that has been particularly prioritized by BPPAC is finding interim and long term solutions for bicycle and pedestrian facilities on West St. In 2018 BPPAC started conducting bike and pedestrian counts at three different points of West St. to establish baseline traffic numbers for future solutions.

The three points where counts are being conducted are the intersection of Island St and West St., the intersection of Pearl St. and West St., and where the Rail Trail Dogleg ends near the intersection of Route 9 and West St. We've voluntarily conducted the counts as a committee, and with some assistance by KSC Geography students, quarterly since starting in the Spring of 2018. The results are being compiled and tabulated by City Staff.

It is a BPPAC goal, with the help of City Staff, to complete this Masterplan in 2020. To do so we would like to utilize outside consultants to bring fresh perspective and expertise. We would start by seeking a few cost estimates. Once estimates are gathered we can begin to explore funding options such as

- Attempting to create funding out of the budget
- Work on fundraising all or a portion
- Discuss with SWRPC (Southwest Regional Planning Commission)

Once funding was sorted, a consultant would aid us and staff in buttoning up this plan. I believe this is all possible during the next year.