

City of Keene
New Hampshire

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

8:15 AM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

Drew Bryenton, Vice Chair
Charles Redfern
Christopher Brehme
David Souther, Alternate

Staff Present:

Will Schoefmann

Members Not Present:

Brad Dufresne
Dillon Benik, Chair
Linda Rubin
Todd Horner

1) Roll Call

Vice Chair Drew Bryenton called meeting to order at 8:15am.

Mr. Bryenton stated David Souther was recognized as a member to make quorum.

2) Adopt the Rules of Procedure

All members unanimously adopted the rules of procedure.

3) July 10, 2019 Minutes

Minutes passed from last month unanimously.

4) Old Business

a. Downtown Bike Racks and Winter Parking and Fall Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Dates

William Schoefmann stated he spoke with Professor Joe Beth Mullens at Keene State and she has an outdoor recreation class this fall and she thinks that getting the students involved in helping with the bike rack counting and bike counting is something she wants to do. Mr. Schoefmann said there are 14 students in the course, and offered to go to Keene state the week before classes resume, propose the counts and go over how to complete the counts. Mr. Schoefmann continued saying the bike counting should be straightforward and maybe he could prepare a collector app for the students to count considering the bikes racks are at a static location that can be updated. Mr. Bryenton

asked if Mr. Schoefmann would be focusing on the bike racks or bike racks and West Street with the students. Mr. Schoefmann stated both and have the committee members also still do counting as experienced folks and will prepare a plan for that in the near future. Mr. Bryenton asked when this would take place. Mr. Schoefmann replied stated he believes it's the September 8th through the 14th but will notify members before the next meeting. Mr. Bryenton stated that sounds great and asked Mr. Schoefmann to prepare the doodle poll prior to the next meeting and asked if supplemental bike counting is okay prior to the schedule bike count. Mr. Schoefmann said the national bike counting initiative is looking for counts on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays between 4pm and 6pm and a Saturday count.

Mr. Bryenton said he spoke with Jessica on a potential community service day with the Keene State students and it sounds like it won't work with groups of 25 that need to be together. However a number of student clubs at Keene State are looking for public service projects and responded to Keene State saying we will reach out when we have more information. Mr. Bryenton asked if we have another week in September or October would work too. Mr. Schoefmann said he did counting in March and May is the spring month we have been trying to focus on and September is the month that coincides with how the counting is done nationally. Mr. Schoefmann continued stating any information and data we can gather for the quarter is better. Mr. Bryenton said focusing on the mid-September week with help from the students. Mr. Schoefmann said we can adjust the timing and he would reach out to Keene State to coordinate.

Mr. Schoefmann addressed winter parking with the committee stating we should consider making a recommendation or a communication on winter parking to DPW by next month and recommended adding this agenda item for the next meeting. Charles Redfern asked Mr. Schoefmann if DPW should make a recommendation for where to put the racks in the winter. Mr. Schoefmann said he believes their recommendations would be to bring them in. Mr. Schoefmann continued suggesting the Wells Street parking deck and hit social media with it maybe make a press release to the Keene Sentinel about winter bike parking and have locations that people can understand. Mr. Bryenton asked if the bike rack by the farmer's marker bus station is under an overhang that is protected. Mr. Schoefmann said it could be protect but that sometimes the snowdrifts pile up there but getting feedback would be beneficial. Mr. Bryenton stated we are looking for something that is covered and Wells Street is ideal and asked the committee if there was anything else on the other side of town the committee could suggest. Mr. Brehme asked if there was anything by the library. Mr. Schoefmann replied stating there is not anything covered by the library. Mr. Redfern said there is a shelter for people waiting for the Friendly Bus and the City Express by the library but it has no seating yet and does not have a whole lot of space inside. Mr. Redfern stated the library might oppose that idea. Mr. Schoefmann replied saying the idea is something to think about and that he or Mr. Bryenton could send out an email to the group to think about that idea for next month while also inquiring if they have any ideas. Mr. Redfern said making a request for a bike shelter at library is a good idea and makes sense in the winter too because many bikes are parked there in the summer, fall and spring and it could be popular in the winter too. Mr. Schoefmann said the library has a new director and believes facilities and DPW would be in charge of installing or maintaining it and suggested approaching both the new library

director as well as the facilities and DPW to consider an install. Mr. Redfern said he knows the new library director and would approach her. Mr. Schoefmann said we should consider West Keene as well. Mr. Bryenton said he would send out an email. Mr. Schoefmann asked in the YMCA has covered bike parking. Mr. Bryenton said he believes the bike rack is half covered and half exposed. Mr. Schoefmann stated it is something to research a bit more.

b. Dedication of Path System Section (Thom Little)

Mr. Schoefmann suggested putting up a street sign in memory of Thom Little, possibly calling it “Little Way.” Mr. Schoefmann further suggested committee members make a recommendation that this information is considered by counsel that a section of trail be in the name of Thom Little for all the work he has done for all the pathways in Keene. MR Schoefmann said we could make a motion and vote. Mr. Bryenton stated he could not imagine why anyone not in attendance would have an issue with naming the trail. Mr. Redfern commented that we are not renaming an existing trail and would use an unnamed the trail in his memory. Mr. Bryenton stated it is a difficult part of the trail and to give it recognition and identity might be helpful. Mr. Redfern recommended calling the trail “The Little Way Trail.”

Mr. Bryenton filed a motion for a recommendation to city council to consider dedicating the trail as discussed as “Little Way.” Mr. Redfern seconded the motion and Mr. Bryenton inquired the members for any further discussion. Mr. Brehme asked if this motion includes signage. Mr. Bryenton retracted the previous motion and made a new motion to amend the previous motion to recommend to city council to dedicate the previous trail as previously described as “Little Way” and establish signage as “Apple Way.” Mr. Brehme seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

c. Public Outreach and Events Subcommittee

Mr. Bryenton stated after reviewing July’s notes that Kürt Blomquist has suggested that drafting a charge for what the subcommittee might do. Mr. Bryenton said he believed Mr. Redfern took that project on. Mr. Redfern stated he would like to table the discussion until a larger group is present. Mr. Bryenton stated the discussion would be tabled until next meeting.

d. Arts and Culture Corridor

Mr. Schoefmann said although some of the information is not available as of yet, the MADC and Jack Dugan are responsible for redevelopment of the railroad land are talking about an arts and culture corridor going form railroad square all the way down Gilbo Avenue to the west toward School Street. It would be a pedestrian way with all sorts of new street scaled and building redevelopment and arts and performance spaces similar to what you would see on Church Street in Burlington. Mr. Schoefmann continued stating Jack Dugan is drumming up proposals and Mr. Schoefmann said he produced a map for him. Once it gets enough support from different folks there will be opportunity for public

comment but maybe a better approach would be talking to Jack Dugan and having him come to one of these meetings. Mr. Schoefmann asked if Mr. Redfern knew Jack Dugan. Mr. Redfern stated yes he spoke to Jack Dugan and stated it is important to show up to a meeting and give input if they want the trail maintained. Mr. Schoefmann stated he would also call Jack Dugan. Mr. Redfern said I want it on the public record that we want to accommodate the rail trail. Mr. Schoefmann said the project is funded with federal funds and they would have to maintain semblance of the trail space that exists. Mr. Redfern said that was his understanding as well and stated he thought the project would be upwards up \$30 million dollars. Mr. Schoefmann said they are pursuing grants and this could be exciting. Mr. Redfern said it sounds exciting and they are talking about railcars and turning them into stores and tourist information but we have to protect the trail system. Mr. Souther asked if we have a standard for how wide the trail is. Mr. Schoefmann said federal guidelines were followed in order to create it with federal funds. Mr. Souther asked what if we want to maintain federal guidelines for width. Mr. Redfern said 10 feet. Mr. Schoefmann said you may not have to do that and just bring up the fact that it was paid for with federal funds and communicate that there is a process for moving a trail and possibly relocating it and it would be good for someone to look up what those requirements are. Mr. Schoefmann stated he is willing to look into the requirements. Mr. Bryenton stated that Mr. Schoefmann would follow up with Jack Dugan and see if we can get him to a meeting. Mr. Bryenton continued saying that after reviewing July's minutes when we talked about downtown revitalization to be sure that the arts and culture corridor is kept as separate in order to stay on point with both of them.

5) Project Updates (Note: BPPAC Master Plan Documents available on Google Drive)

Mr. Schoefmann said there is a spreadsheet at the end of the last week's minutes, the first set is for August updates and said he will highlight anything in yellow on those. Mr. Schoefmann continued saying to keep in mind some suggestions for winter parking and bike racks and relay them to DPW. The update on the street grant for 2017 and 2018 is that there were some complications with the road-striping budget and reports he has been working with the person managing that contract and DPW but it has been difficult getting a straight answer. Mr. Redfern stated he was concerned that the winter weather would negatively affect the street striping. Mr. Schoefmann stated if people are concerned contact DPW. Mr. Bryenton asked if the initial project was funded by an anonymous donor and if there were any stipulations. Mr. Schoefmann said only for the first year. Mr. Bryenton asked if after that point DPW takes over. Mr. Schoefmann stated yes and the striping contracts bids came in \$40,000 dollars over and it's been communicated the project will happen. At this point it should be completed in the spring because by September cyclists only have a month and a half to ride and that is for people who can handle riding in cold weather and/or don't have any other options for other transportation. Mr. Bryenton said he would add that to the email about bike parking. Mr. Bryenton asked if Kürt Blomquist be the best person to contact. Mr. Schoefmann stated you could call or email Kürt Blomquist and encouraged the committee to relay and feedback. Mr. Redfern

asked where the money is coming from. Mr. Schoefmann said the city has a road striping budget.

Mr. Schoefmann continued saying CHA, the consultant for the Cheshire Rail Trail and Park Avenue loop, has sent out their response to the committees comments. The NH Department of Transportation has that now and CHA is working on the final design submission after comments submitted from our group and NHDOT. The city is working on collaborating with property owners regarding right of way. Those plans that CHA is drafting should be submitted in 2-3 weeks. Bidding can commence after all design phases have been commented on and approved. The goal is to have the bid out to possible contractors by December 2019. Mr. Bryenton asked Mr. Schoefmann if we could expect the project start date to be next spring. Mr. Schoefmann replied yes.

Mr. Schoefmann stated he would consult his contact at Keene State College regarding dates for bike counting and bike rack counting. Mr. Schoefmann said the KSC crossing has a new island installed and the project is wrapping up.

Mr. Schoefmann said he is unsure on the status of bike boxes and bike lanes.

Mr Redfern asked if the Eastern Avenue 101 extension is on the highlighted section for reviews. Mr. Schoefmann said it is in the updates but there has not been any movement on it. Mr. Redfern asked if we could have the Eastern Avenue and Route 101 extension highlighted. Mr. Schoefmann said it is just a project request at this point and does not have a date assigned to it yet. Mr. Redfern said he will try and get the project on the radar.

Mr. Bryenton stated that the committee recognizes that Mr. Brehme left the meeting at 8:45am and committee is no longer able to establish a quorum. Mr. Bryenton stated we have tabled several things that would be considered new business and establish in an email if any other new business needs to be added for the next meeting.

6) Adjournment

Vice Chair Drew Bryenton adjourned the meeting at 8:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Claire Kunzler, Minute Taker

Additional Edits by,
Will Schoefmann, GIS Technician