

City of Keene
New Hampshire

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

8:15 AM

**2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Dillon Benik, Chair
Drew Bryenton, Vice Chair
Councilor Jan Manwaring
Michael Davern
Todd Horner
Rowland Russell
Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate
Charles Redfern, Alternate

Staff Present:

William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
Andrew Bohannon, Director of Parks
and Recreation Department

Members Not Present:

Brad Dufresne

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Bryenton called the meeting to order at 8:19 AM.

Roll call was conducted. Dr. Brehme sitting as a regular member for the meeting.

2) October 13, 2021 Minutes

Councilor Manwaring moved to accept the October 13 meeting minutes, Mr. Davern seconded and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

3) Staff Support

Mr. Schoefmann stated that there are several changes occurring in the Planning Department. Ms. Kessler and Mr. Lamb are leaving their positions before the end of the new year. He stated moving forward, he may not be as able to support the committee as he has been. He said he will attempt to continue supporting the committee as much as possible, but he may not be able to attend the morning meetings. Mr. Bohannon will represent the city in his absence. Mr. Schoefmann will continue developing the agenda and provide support. Mr. Horner asked how the minutes will be transcribed and Mr. Schoefmann said they will continue to be recorded on

Zoom, however, if he needs help recording the meetings on Zoom, he will provide training to committee members.

Mr. Russell joined the meeting remotely.

Councilor Manwaring shared that the trails are now featured in front of the post office through a collaboration between the City Clerk and Keene State College (KSC).

Chair Benik joined the meeting remotely.

4) Old Business

A) Wayfinding: UNH Downtown Trails Update, Other updates

Mr. Bohannon stated the process is going well with the UNH Extension project, they are getting a good amount of survey results, however, not as many intercept survey results as they had hoped for. The survey was distributed to several local entities, and as of Wednesday of last week, there were over 40 survey results and he provided her with paper copies. Mr. Schoefmann noted that there are about 25 surveys he still must collect from Prime Roast. Mr. Bohannon said they are coming in slowly and they will then determine whether they need more or if they have enough. He said they have over 140 GPS points of interest. Mr. Bohannon said he gave Ms. Rogers from UNH the survey information that Mr. Kowalczyk had collected as well so they should be in good shape when they meet next week. Mr. Russell added that the meeting in next Thursday morning, and they are hoping to get more coverage up by North Bridge and down by South Bridge. Mr. Bohannon noted that they should not go too far out, however, as this is a Downtown study. Mr. Russell has not been able to connect with Antioch University New England about the student participation yet, but he will attempt to reach out again.

Mr. Bohannon asked members to follow up with businesses and individuals that they have dropped survey offs at so they can collect the remaining surveys. Mr. Horner stated that he has about a half dozen paper surveys that he can scan and submit to Mr. Bohannon. Mr. Schoefmann and Mr. Bohannon can also provide additional copies of the surveys to members.

B) Amenities: Survey, Shade Trees

Mr. Horner stated that he did not receive an enthusiastic response on amenities except for lighting. He said the difference between the resident and visitor surveys was regarding money; the visitors he spoke with had just spent a bunch of money, but the residents generally said that walkability is one of the primary reasons they moved to Keene. He stated that the survey is not capturing that, and he is not sure what framework of analysis that UNH is using but it appears that many residents moved to Keene for walkability and cycling. Mr. Schoefmann suggested emailing the link to realtors. Mr. Russell said some of the ideas are not incorporated now could become follow ups for the future. Mr. Bohannon added that he mentioned that this survey is a steppingstone to future research to Ms. Jones and in the future, they can tie in groups like the mountain biker homeowners to get valuable information.

C) Sidewalks: Council Proposal

Mr. Schoefmann stated that there is a report that is due to come out from Engineering that will revolve around when the CIP goes to Council in January. Mr. Bohannon stated that the Council discussed a goal section and sidewalks was a hot topic, so it is on the Council's radar. Mr. Schoefmann stated that ranking regarding proximity to services is part of a proximity analysis, but he has not seen the final results. Mr. Horner stated that sidewalks improvements on West Street would be included in the 10-year plan for that corridor. He asked if the prioritization analysis is in Council minutes and Mr. Schoefmann replied not yet because they are waiting for the CIP hearings.

D) Bike/Pedestrian Counts: EcoCounter Grant

Mr. Davern stated that he wrapped the project up at the end of October and pulled the counters. He said he wanted to end with the back of Goose Pond but was unable to so the counters remained at West Keene. He said there were 6400 counts, some of the trailheads were lower volume and some were higher, for example, West Keene. The peak day was 268 on Sunday, October 31, and that shows the counting location, Drummer Road, Green Acres, and the dog walk trailhead. He showed the data on a screen. Overall, he said the data is aligned with what you would expect to see, weekends are busier than weekdays, lunch breaks, and late afternoon. Mr. Russell said he will check with his friend who teaches Intro to Environmental Studies for KSC to see if the Ammi Brown Road counts are correct. He asked if the report can be sent to members. Mr. Schoefmann replied that he will make the data available to the committee. Mr. Davern said he got a quote for the Ecocounters and they are over \$7K, which is more expensive than he had anticipated. Mr. Horner reminded the committee that Southwest Community Regional Planning Commission owns a few Ecocounters and can provide them if requested. Mr. Schoefmann said they can use more data at the Transportation Heritage Trail and 101. Mr. Brehme proposed counting sidewalk traffic at West Street as well, however, Mr. Horner replied that it is difficult with traffic, but it could be possible. Mr. Davern noted that it would be interesting to get more work at Goose Pond now that they have trailhead data, but he will apply again. Mr. Schoefmann said they can ask SWRPC in the fall.

E) Walldogs – Potential for Additional Mural along trail

Mr. Russell stated that the full Board is voting next Monday on transferring the funds from the fiscal agent Arts for Life to the Historical Society. He said there is a convergence from the Historical Society education committee that is looking at promoting the use of walking tours of Walldogs to collaborate together with other groups to get a card that the Chamber of Commerce publishes to show visitors what they can do out on foot in Keene.

5) Regular Project Updates

A) Jonathan Daniels Trail

Mr. Schoefmann stated that there were some improvements done on the Jonathan Daniels trail after storm damage.

B) Cheshire Rail Trail-Park Avenue

Mr. Schoefmann stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been determined with the Bureau of Rail. He said Park Avenue has been repaved but not yet striped and crosswalks have been striped. There are new placements on either side of Arch Street and there are now two crossings instead of one. Mr. Redfern asked when construction is expected to start, and Mr. Schoefmann replied most likely in the spring. Mr. Schoefmann stated that Department of Public Works (DPW) just filled the highway superintendent position so there is a lot of catch up to be done. Members stated that the supply chain could be of concern as well.

Mr. Kowalczyk asked if the striping is a function of the Park Avenue loop and Mr. Schoefmann replied no as the paving and striping are separate, however, they will install the bike lane at that time. Mr. Russell asked if the triangular painted arrows are part of the sharrows (shared lane markings) and Mr. Schoefmann replied that those are chevron stripes to alert for pedestrians.

Mr. Bohannon joined the meeting.

C) Transportation Heritage Trail

Mr. Schoefmann stated that Phase 1 of the Transportation Heritage Trail has been CAP-funded; he will send a link for the promotional video after the meeting.

6) New Business- items to be discussed for next meeting.

Vice Chair Bryenton asked how Mr. Schoefmann plans to keep up with the Master Plan as he will no longer be able to work on it. Mr. Schoefmann replied that hiring a consultant would be the most likely approach. He said BPPAC should seek to create a CIP, as staff will most likely not be able to complete the document. Mr. Bohannon said they can begin looking into costs for hiring a consultant.

Mr. Horner asked where the earmarked funds are located. Mr. Schoefmann replied that it was included in the infrastructure bill for Eastern Avenue to 101. He asked how that relates to the TAP funding and Mr. Bohannon replied that Mr. Lussier is navigating that right now.

Vice Chair Bryenton said they can discuss the maps on the wooden kiosks as progress on that not been updated. Mr. Bohannon replied that he has 10 signs that he needs to put up and he can work with Mr. Schoefmann on an updated map. Mr. Schoefmann said he can use the map he provided to Mr. Poanessa. Mr. Bohannon asked if they want to mount a map because they can work with Gem Graphic as he has some money in his operating budget to allocate towards that project. He said he will come up with a design and bring those ideas back to the committee in December. Mr. Russell said there is a kiosk at the end of Island Street and there is a space for a map there too. Mr. Redfern noted that the maps are faded already on some of the older kiosks built by Benson Wood and Mr. Bohannon said they will replace them with the new signs. Mr. Davern noted that there are maps they put up on Drummer Hill printed on metal and they are super durable and still look new after several years. He said the metal can be reused to keep costs down.

Mr. Bohannon state that they installed the fix station at Emerald Street.

7) **Adjournment- Next meeting date – December 8, 2021**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Bryenton adjourned the meeting at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker

Additional Edits by,
Will Schoefmann, Community Development Staff