

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

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

**8:15 AM**

**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Will Schoefmann, KGIS/Community  
Development  
Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation Cemetery  
and Facilities Director  
Kürt Blomquist, Director of Public Works

**Members Not Present:**

**1) Roll Call**

Chair Benik called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM and roll call was conducted.

**2) January 13, 2021 Minutes**

Mr. Russell moved to accept the January 13, 2021 minutes, with a minor edit, Mr. Redfern seconded, and motion passed by unanimous vote.

*Edit as follows:*

Remove incomplete sentence on page two, "P1- Eastern Avenue- "Mr. Schoefmann stated that they..."

**3) Old Business**

**a. Wayfinding**

**i. UNH Downtown Trails**

Mr. Bohannon informed the committee that he reached out to UNH and has had some email correspondence; however, they have not arrived on a scheduled date to meet. He will provide

more information come spring. He said that due to COVID, it is unlikely that there will be movement on this item this spring and more likely in the fall, or the following spring.

*ii. MAST Grant*

Mr. Bohannon stated that the MAST grant is signed, although he has to get a second signature from the City Manager before submitting it to Southwest Community Services, and it has been approved by City Council.

*iii. MRRTC*

Mr. Schoefmann stated that the Monadnock Regional Rail Trail Coalition (MRRTC) has been talking about wayfinding and Mr. Davern has done a great job with cost estimations and there may be some compensation there in regard to wayfinding He said he wants to brand Keene a bit more but they will explore what the costs of that may be.

*iv. Walk Your City Template*

Mr. Schoefmann showed a slide with the additions to Mr. Horner's Walk Your City template. The orange circles show the locations of signs. He stated that he and Mr. Bohannon expanded the scope slightly outside of the walk shed out to the facilities that will be built along Park Avenue-Summit Road, and the extension up to Amy Brown Road and Wheelock Park. He said they will also place some signage along Appel Way at either end, including one at the intersection at the Jonathan Daniels trail and the entrance to the Park, as well as the Cheshire Rail Trail at Bradford. Mr. Schoefmann said there will be another sign at Eastern Avenue and one at Krif Road as well. He stated that this is a planning tool that is specific to the Walk Your City wayfinding template. He added that he will have some numbers and verbiage of what will be on the signs at the next meeting. Mr. Kowalcyk added that he is willing to show the committee the wayfinding design they are experimenting with on the southern sections of the Cheshire Rail trail. Mr. Schoefmann replied that they will place that discussion on the agenda for next meeting. Mr. Schoefmann encouraged members to provide him with their ideas and input on the placement of signs. Mr. Horner stated that the Walk your City signs have a QR code that can be scanned by a phone which provides directions and information. He said those codes could be useful as there is a wayfinding value to the signs as well as the potential for data collection for the City. He said that the codes can help the City to gather information about what community members want and need in terms of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and other relevant issues. He encouraged the committee to think about what the QR code will direct users to. Mr. Schoefmann noted that he and Mr. Bohannon discussed that the QR code could direct users to a survey to collect information to present to City Council about a formalized wayfinding plan. Mr. Horner suggested that data they collect could include designs for permanent wayfinding and community feedback on prioritization for wayfinding.

Mr. Schoefmann agreed and said it would be most valuable for City staff to understand what wayfinding signs should look like, including the elements that are most important, to justify what to City Council what the permanent signs should look like. Mr. Redfern proposed that the public should be informed before the pilot project roll out, perhaps through a press release and radio show appearance. Mr. Schoefmann added that they can also place announcements on the City's social media platforms. Mr. Bohannon said that City Council is more interested in the infrastructure but any type of public outreach will be important. He said that the new bike park will attract a lot of visitors this summer. Mr. Russell agreed with using the QR codes as a way to assess where users access the survey from. Mr. Schoefmann said XY data can be accessed through social media platforms as well.

**b. Amenities**

**i. *Public Surveys***

Mr. Schoefmann stated that the committee has discussed gathering survey information on the trails to assess what public opinion is on the need for amenities. Mr. Russell stated that the survey will be very useful and perhaps they can determine a list of amenities to gather information about at a future meeting. Mr. Schoefmann added that the Geography department at Keene State College (KSC) has used software to collect public information and he will reach out to Dr. Brehme at KSC about using those tools. Mr. Russell agreed that they could also ask users to identify where on a map they would place certain amenities. Mr. Schoefmann encouraged members to provide him with a list of questions to include on a five to six question survey, with half of the survey focused on amenities. Chair Benik asked if the survey will be entirely button response or include a verbal response as well and Mr. Schoefmann said he is not sure yet. Mr. Russell asked if BPPAC has a shared Google Drive and Mr. Schoefmann said they do and he will send it out again. Mr. Russell suggested that they all provide feedback in an Amenities folder on the shared Drive.

**ii. *Emerald Street Connectivity & Pocket Park***

Mr. Russell stated that he has been advocating for this as it presents the nexus point of where the two trails meet. He said he still does not know where the lost bike repair station is but that would be the ideal placement for it, as well as some dedicated parking spaces at the Center of Keene for trail users. He stated that getting to the pocket park from the east and west due to the Colony Mill parking lot, however, they want to encourage better use of the trail in that direction and address the crossing safety concerns there as well. He stated that the Gilbo Street crossing by the east side of the Center of the Keene is tricky as well. Mr. Schoefmann added that hopefully the MAST grant can address some of those issues, as well as the wayfinding. Chair Benik noted that he crosses through the Colony Mill as well and most users do not know they are not supposed to cross through there. He agreed that tenants at the Colony Mill may begin to complain about that traffic. Mr. Russell added that the wayfinding map at School Street and Gilbo Street will be helpful for directing cyclists and pedestrians, as well as the one on Island Street. He said that the kiosk at the pocket park will help encourage people to use that route and Mr. Schoefmann agreed

that it is a good hub or destination to bolster the facilities around it. Mr. Horner noted that parking is encroaching on City land there as well, for example, Mr. Tousely's request for additional parking spaces. Chair Benik asked if the City of Keene lot is owned by the corporation that owns the buildings and Mr. Schoefmann replied yes. Mr. Russell suggested that they speak to the owners about adding dedicated parking spaces by explaining that parking would help limit the amount of people crossing the lot.

Mr. Blomquist added that they should avoid making reference to controlling people's behavior as it is not always possible to do so without local enforcement. Councilor Manwaring added that location would be ideal for public restrooms as well as restrooms are lacking along the corridor.

**4) Regular Project Updates**

**a. Cheshire Rail Trail—Park Avenue Loop**

Mr. Schoefmann stated that the City submitted a request for authorization to advertise again looking at the specific costs that were contributing to high bids. He said they should be good to go for the spring and he will keep committee updated.

**b. Cheshire Rail Trail Phase Four**

Mr. Schoefmann stated that Mr. Kowalczyk, with the Monadnock Regional Trails Collaborative, is working on developing promotional materials for wayfinding along the trail and the City Engineer drafted a letter of intent to apply for 2021 TAP funds. The letter is included at the end of today's agenda packet

**5) New Business**

Mr. Horner asked if the committee should reach out to the owners of the Center of Keene parking lot. Mr. Bohannon replied that it has been a challenge to convince the owner Brady Sullivan; however, it might be worth engaging him again to break that barrier down. Mr. Schoefmann noted that they may need a solid elevator pitch before they talk to him. Chair Benik added that if Mr. Sullivan asks for a fee from the City that may be a nonstarter. Mr. Russell noted that there may be other locations, for example, where the former Aikido business is being sold. Mr. Horner suggested that they keep this item on the next agenda for new business.

Mr. Horner informed the committee that in January there was a serious hit and run at the crossing of the Ashuelot Rail Trail at Winchester Street; he said at one point there were flashing beacons at that location but they have been removed and not replaced. He said he would like to see those beacons replaced. Mr. Schoefmann added that replacement of those beacons is part of the improvements of the Winchester Street corridor project and he will ask Mr. Lussier from Public Works for an update on that. Chair Benik suggested they keep this item on New Business for next month.

**6) Adjournment – Next Meeting: March 10, 2021**

There being no further business, Chair Benik adjourned the meeting at 9:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker

Additional edits by,  
Will Schoefmann, KGIS/Community Development Staff

Additional edits by,  
Katie Kibler, Clerk's Staff