

City of Keene
New Hampshire

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

8:15 AM

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

Members Present:

Councilor Jan Manwaring
Brad Dufresne
Michael Davern
Todd Horner
Rowland Russell
Charles Redfern, Alternate

Staff Present:

William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Dillon Benik, Chair
Drew Bryenton, Vice Chair
Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2) September 8, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Mr. Redfern, seconded by Mr. Davern. After discussion the minutes were accepted by unanimous vote in favor.

3) Review Transportation Heritage Trail Brochure

N/A

4) Sidewalk Assessment Report to Council

Mr. Schoefmann stated that he included the sidewalk conversations and the Council proposal in the agenda packet. He stated that the next steps from the analysis conducted between himself and the DPW engineering department in terms of ranking their proximity to the services and condition for combined score will result in a report. That report is being put together as a CIP program for sidewalk improvements. He said that the CIP project is in process and being

reviewed by Finance and then will go the City Manager and finally to Council review. He said as soon as there is content to share on the report, he will get the details back to the committee.

5) **Old Business**

A) Wayfinding

B) UNH Downtown Trails Update and Other Updates

Mr. Bohannon stated that BPPAC is acting as a work group for the project. He said they have done some training with UNH personnel related to the intercept surveys and the software. He said he has the resident and visitor versions which are mostly the same, as well as about 100 QR codes they discussed previously. He said this information needs to be distributed to local businesses by BPPAC volunteers and then followed up. Mr. Bohannon stated that the survey is quick and painless but if they get to a point where they are not getting enough survey responses, they will turn to the internet; however, as of now, UNH wants to take more of a direct approach. He said on Monday they saw more trail users than they expected. And they will continue to do observations. He said they need to set the next date for the team, and they can continue to meet at 8:15 AM on October 22, 25 and 28. Dr. Russell asked if he could send out that information to the group and Mr. Bohannon asked for a majority vote for a date to meet. He said the 22nd is a Friday and the 25th is Monday, and the 28th is a Thursday. Mr. Schoefmann said he can do any date, and Mr. Russell and Mr. Redfern said they can make any date work as well. Mr. Schoefmann said they can meet remotely. The committee decided on meeting at 8:15 AM on October 22nd.

Mr. Schoefmann stated that it was a good experience. Mr. Bohannon said he took pictures of places of certain categories, for example, a spot that could use seating. Mr. Schoefmann said they can map needs in certain categories. Dr. Russell noted that the app requires a few steps to submit a location, however, they did cover behind the Monadnock Co-Op basketball courts and the intersection of the Ashuelot and Cheshire Rail Trails. He said they will reach out to Alex and AUNE to see if they will cover those intersections. Mr. Bohannon said because they are all using the same username and password, all the other pieces of information that have already been inputted can be seen as little dots.

Dr. Russell said that the Ashuelot Trail down to Keene State needs to be covered. Mr. Bohannon stated that places that are gateways into the Downtown area are important categories for UNH. He said they had a good time on Monday, and it was well worth their time. The next piece is getting the survey out to the public. He encouraged all BPPAC board members to take the survey. Mr. Redfern asked who will be sending the Zoom invite for October 22 and Dr. Russell replied that Shannon will send out the invite. Dr. Russell asked Mr. Bohannon if it is worth doing the remaining locations that they think QR codes are needed.

Mr. Russell said he will provide the front desk at AUNE and the Student Center at KSC with the QR codes. He said he will also do Modest Man. Mr. Schoefmann stated he can do Prime Roast and Brewbakers. Mr. Bohannon said he will do Ted's. Mr. Davern said he can do Bagel Works. Mr. Bohannon said he can do the library. Dr. Russell said he can also hit the Historical Society.

Mr. Horner asked if the QR codes are unique. Mr. Bohannon replied that once you get in you can select whether you are a resident or a visitor to Keene. Dr. Russell stated that the paper codes are for the intercept survey. Mr. Redfern said he will visit Norm's Bike Shop. Mr. Schoefmann said they should consider visiting Starbuck's as well. Mr. Horner said he will do the International Market and the Children's Museum. Mr. Bohannon stated that when they have the conversation with the store you are contacting, to let them know that the survey is for downtown businesses and the economic impact of the trail system and that it is for the benefit of Downtown Keene. Dr. Russell asked if they should discuss the intercept surveys as well. Mr. Bohannon replied that they should distribute those as well and they will most likely need an update on October 22nd. Mr. Horner said he will have to participate on the weekends mostly. Dr. Russell said they don't have as much of a plan for intercept surveys. Mr. Schoefmann said the major stops are the different gateway points, like Railroad Square and Ashuelot River Park, or stop a trail user on the trail. Mr. Redfern said there are two entrances to Ashuelot River Park and asked which are used the most. Members replied that the front entrance is used more. Mr. Redfern said he will visit that area this week. Mr. Bohannon said he will go out at lunch time to Emerald Street or Pitcher and Island Street. Mr. Horner said he can visit the Farmer's Market on Saturday for an hour or so as well.

C) Amenities: Survey and Shade Trees

No new updates.

D) Sidewalks: Council Proposal

No new updates.

E) Bike/Pedestrian Counts: EcoCounter Grant

Mr. Davern stated that he installed two eco counters in the beginning of August and has been moving them around every two weeks in the greater Goose Pond area. He said the first two weeks he placed the counters on the Green Acre and Drummer Road trailhead and then they moved them to the lower Drummer Road trailhead just below Mid Gate, and then the Meeting House. He said the third week they placed them at East Surry Road and then fourth week the cul de sacs at Acre Brook and Algonquin. He said those access the forest through private property but are consistently used by residents. He stated there were no surprises, the two locations on East Surry Road are by far the most used trailheads, followed by the Drummer Acre trailheads, followed by the Amy Brown Road and the rail trail north of Hurricane. He said they want the eco counters back at the end of October so he will revisit the backside of Goose Pond for two weeks to get a feel who goes all around the pond and that ties into the Greater Goose Pond Advisory Committee's needs.

Mr. Davern stated that as of when he last printed the counts, they had 3,300 visitors going into Goose Pond in mostly two locations, now it is at almost 4,200 visitors with the counts from West

Keene added in. He said the day stats show that there are spikes on Tuesdays when they do mountain bike rides in Drummer. There are also spikes in the mornings when morning runners are out and then again in the evening. He stated that some peak days are correlated with the weather and days of the week as well. Guest Mike asked if they had considered street light data as well. He said they are mobile device tracking systems that do not require hardware and can detect pedestrians versus bikes and other vehicles. He said he will send Mr. Schoefmann more information regarding the street light data tracking systems. Dr. Russell stated they will place that in next month's agenda. Mr. Davern said he will have the final data at next month's meeting.

F) Walldogs: Potential for More Murals Along Trails

Dr. Russell stated that the Historical Society board will be voting on Monday about the Walldogs funding for additional murals. He said it will not be for this year, but Mr. Peter Poanessa has some great ideas about the abutments on the North Bridge. He said the first abutment would be a railroad tunnel and the abutment in the middle would be a locomotive heading towards the tunnel and the other side would be canoes heading towards the tunnel. Dr. Russell stated people would be able to see the mural from the path. He said they can only fund one new mural per year.

6) Regular Project Updates

Mr. Bohannon stated that they have not gotten any new information, but they have an agreement with the State related to the trails. He said the contractor for Amy Brown Road is ready to start but they can maybe get some trimming and ditch work done on that by the end of the season. Mr. Mike guest asked if that is an MOU and if that was all that was needed because he hears all sorts of different language. Mr. Schoefmann said there was a blanket agreement for all the assets that they have a right to improve and they are all similar but have different legal bindings.

7) New Business

- Mr. Schoefmann stated that the UNH Downtown Trails
- EcoCounters and Streetlight bicycle/pedestrian counts.

8) Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Russell adjourned the meeting at 9:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Will Schoefmann, Community Development Staff

Additional edits by, Katie Kibler, Clerk's Office