

City of Keene
New Hampshire

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

8:15 AM

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

Members Present:

Samantha Jackson, Chair
Dr. Rowland Russell, Vice Chair
Michael Davern
Councilor Edward Haas
Autumn DelaCroix
Charles Redfern, Alternate
Janelle Sartorio, Alternate

Staff Present:

William Schoefmann, GIS Technician

Members Not Present:

Dillon Benik
Diane Duffy

1) Call to Order, Roll Call, Welcome

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:17 AM.

2) May 8, 2024, Minutes

Chair Jackson welcomed any corrections and discussion on the minutes. With no corrections, Mr. Ed Haas moved to approve the May 8, 2024, minutes, which Dr. Rowland Russell seconded. With unanimous approval, the minutes from May 8, 2024, were approved.

3) Downtown Bike Racks

Mr. William Schoefmann said he observed nine u-racks with a few other random types such as the City Hall bike rack. Chair Jackson said she saw one by Mon Amie that is a random type. The listed locations were two at Davis Street, across from Cumberland Farms, outside of Mon Amie, and then a few around the Square. Chair Jackson pointed out there was one near Ye Goodie Shoppe.

The highway superintendent took the recommendations and responded that it was too many spots. Mr. Schoefmann whittled it down to ten spots which the superintendent used.

Ms. DelaCroix said the timing of putting them out was excellent because she saw them frequently being used during the Food Festival.

Mr. Redfern shared that they are starting to focus Stantec on where things are to be located. He suggested connecting with Don Lussier or with a representative of Stantec. Mr. Schoefmann said getting a representative from Stantec might be tough. He suggested the committee members review the plans and bring any suggestions.

Chair Jackson asked about the potential of a covered bike rack. Mr. Schoefmann suggested the committee look at it. It is something that has been looked at for some time. Mr. Haas commended Chair Jackson for her presentation on the bike racks. He questioned publicizing the bike rack presentation or at the very least getting on the agenda of the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure (MSFI) Committee for recognition. Mr. Redfern asked to include bike lockers. Mr. Schoefmann suggested adding the bike locker to the preferred rack list. He said that at the next meeting, the BPPAC can make a motion to accept it once everyone has reviewed the additions. Dr. Russell agreed with Mr. Haas's suggestion to put it before MSFI but suggested adding the current locations of the rack as well. He wondered whether Mr. Lussier or someone from Public Works should be invited to the next meeting. Chair Jackson will update the current locations of the bike racks before sending it to Mr. Schoefmann. Councilor Haas noted that MSFI comes up at the end of the month and then will go to the council next month. He worried that waiting until the next BPPAC meeting would be too late. Mr. Schoefmann said it was up to the committee and dependent on Chair Jackson's confidence as to whether she could get the document prepared in time.

Councilor Hass motioned to approve Chair Jackson's document with suggested edits as a piece of advisory information for the MSFI. Ms. DelaCroix seconded the motion and with no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Schoefmann suggested running a census on them a couple of times a summer and offered a sheet to help them with that if desired.

4) Safety and Outreach

A) Downtown Bike Lane Rules

Councilor Haas shared that the information and document were presented at the Council workshop held the previous night. Councilor Haas said it was a draft. Mr. Schoefmann said the list is probably what they are drafting into the ordinance. A detailed list was provided to City Manager Dragon by Mr. Schoefmann. That list will probably be turned into an easily referenceable website for the public.

Mr. Redfern said he attended the Stantec Presentation to the MSFI workshop. His only concern was the removal/relocation of the trail at Railroad Square from going through the middle. They moved it north of the square and will paint railroad tracks where the rail trail used to be. Their diagram was not clear in showing where the trail would go. He believes it will lead to confusion.

Chair Jackson said her understanding of that area was that it becomes mixed-use, which means that whatever motion is already happening in it takes precedence. If there is already pedestrian activity, bikes will become secondary and will need to yield. It sounds chaotic, but where she has seen it happen, it is usually positive.

Mr. Schoefmann brought the conversation back to the rules. He added references to state law in the extended edition because the policy committee wanted a baseline. He will distribute the draft to the BPPAC. The next step will be to adopt that into an actual ordinance.

Dr. Russell motioned that the BPPAC acknowledges support of the documents presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haas and was unanimously approved.

B) Bicycle Pedestrian Promotion

Councilor Haas asked if anyone wanted to hold on to the banner. Mr. Schoefmann offered storage in his office. Councilor Haas offered to hang onto it and suggested taking advantage of banner use moving forward and being creative and where and how to advertise. Mr. Schoefmann pointed out that no one organization is a clearinghouse for Bike Month. Dr. Russell pointed out that Jen Risley does it, but not in a formal sense.

Chair Jackson shared the success of the community bike ride. She shared that everyone stayed together and communicated well and all seemed to have had a good time. The rides will occur monthly until October. Future rides are scheduled for July 19th, August 16th, September 20th, and October 18th (the third Friday of every month) from 5:30-6:30. Most are gone by 7 pm. Promotion is through word of mouth. Pam Bys posted it on social media and promoted it through clubs and text messages.

Dr. Russell shared that Monadnock Outdoors has a website and thought that would be a great promotion opportunity. Ms. Jeanelle Sartorio suggested routing the ride near the Transportation Heritage Trail.

5) Regular Project Updates

Mr. Schoefmann shared that the steering committee for the Safe Streets for All grant is meeting next week on the 24th. When they meet, there is a draft plan that will be shared. The advisory committee saw it yesterday and provided their feedback. There is lots of good work happening there. Providing the draft through the policy committee was the major update. He suggested putting an education and outreach discussion on the agenda for next month as a next step.

He then shared there was a workshop last night for the council. Councilor Haas shared that Stantec got new imaging and projected imaging on the project. One detail in the sentinel was bike lanes would be colored concrete.

Mr. Schoefmann explained that Stantec is also the consultant for phase one of the Transportation Heritage Plan. From the public input sessions, screening along the trail was a major highlighted factor. This trail goes behind and sometimes through people's backyards, so screening helps provide a bit of privacy. One of the preferred options was screening treatment on fencing. That has driven the cost up along with all the needed drainage and surface treatments along the trail. They have not heard back from the consultants but are preparing to discuss the costs and the need to cut in certain areas. The time for construction would be for next year.

Dr. Russell said that while it is not part of the design, Friends of Public Art and the Historical Society would be in support of art motifs on the abutment that will be exposed when the clearing happens. He asked who they should talk to about that when the time comes. Mr. Schoefmann suggested talking to the Heritage Commission in the meantime.

Mr. Redfern said if things come to fruition, Phases 2, 3, and 4 will be eliminated in favor of a one-and-done plan. Annie Kuster has put in a congressional allotment. He expressed kudos to the bike and pedestrian community for helping to get that through. The city put in at least four applications for consideration of that congressional easement. He participated by taking Annie Kuster's aid on a tour of the three last phases. During the tour, he explained the challenges. The tour occurred during heavy traffic on Route 101, which helped make his case. During the tour of the bridge, the aide noted the lack of fencing and Mr. Redfern was able to explain the multiple safety incidents that have happened because of the fencing. This congressional allotment still must be approved at the federal level. He did not know the timing and asked if Mr. Schoefmann did. Mr. Schoefmann did not either.

6) **Volunteer Opportunities**

Dr. Russell asked about discussion points on bike counts. Mr. Schoefmann wanted to schedule some walk-throughs for the census to determine the usage of the bike racks. Chair Jackson said a Google form would be the easiest. Chair Jackson and Mr. Schoefmann to talk offline.

Dr. Russell mentioned the crossing counts, in particular, crosswalk violations. Mr. Schoefmann said they would need to define what they are looking for more. With the downtown project coming up, this is something that the BPPAC may want to consider for downtown as well. It does not need to be this year, but Mr. Schoefmann said the focus could be Main Street and West Street corridors and how many cars do not stop at crosswalks. He would have to research the methodology to make sure they get it right. Dr Russell suggested focusing on the Railroad Square Crossing, Ashuelot Park Crossing, and the Central Square Crossing both on Court and Washington Street. Mr. Mike Frank suggested the School and Gilbo Avenue intersection as another location.

Dr. Redfern commended Mr. Schoefmann for the work he put into the draft map. He shared that Pathways said they will not approve it until Mike Davern signs off on it. Mr. Davern is to e-mail Ted McGreer. Once approved, Mr. Redfern will get it commercially printed. Ms. Sartorio

pointed out that the light does not have the same convention and believes that contributes to the confusion and issue.

7) **Old Business**

A) **Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan**

Mr. Schoefmann shared that the plan is for community development staff to draft a request for proposal (RFP) to go out for completion of the plan. They have been in touch with both public and private options for this and are expecting some decent options with it. He will share once he gets it drafted. Dr. Russell wanted to acknowledge the work of this committee over the last few months. He counted six at the visioning session. He commended that members show up and do good work!

B) **Kiosk Maps and Wayfinding Updates**

Mr. Schoefmann said installation of the wayfinding signs was expected mid to late summer. He will try to get more of a concrete update soon.

8) **New Business**

A) **Items to be included for the next meeting**

Chair Jackson did not have anything. Dr. Russell reminded the group of the desire to invite public works. Mr. Schoefmann will invite a staff member to discuss the downtown infrastructure and placement of bike racks and lockers.

Mr. Frank introduced himself as a member of the Monadnock Cycling Club.

Councilor Haas moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Russell seconded. Mr. Schoefmann clarified that they do not need a motion to adjourn, the chair can simply adjourn the meeting.

9) **More Time**

A) **Public Art and the Trails Updates**

B) **Old Stone Arch Bridge Safety Improvements**

C) **BPPAC Website**

D) **Community Bike Share**

10) **Next Meeting: July 10, 2024**

11) **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by, Will Schoefmann,
Community Development Staff