

**BWC Meeting
July 20, 2016
MINUTES**

*Present: Mariann Millard, Margaret Jodoin, Marilyn Gass, Nancy Bozek, Melissa O'Brien, Lucia Foley, Linda Young
Guests: Mike Sullivan, Enid Sichel, Doris Dubois*

Carlene Hamlin, Town Clerk, swore the Committee members in.

Mike Sullivan spoke about the various Boards and Commissions and whether or not they should be appointed by the Selectboard (SB). As part of Mike's performance evaluation, he was asked by the SB to review all of the Boards and Commissions and determine whether they should go forward or not.

Mike's comments: He praised the work and efforts of the BWC; in particular he cited the valuable level of onsite support he received when BWC members attended a recent MassDOT hearing regarding the planned Rts. 33/202 intersection improvement.

Perhaps some committees could be combined with others? Does the BWC need to be an ad hoc committee or would it be just as functional if it did not have a function that would be responsible to the Selectboard, Town Meeting, etc. BWC has been very effective, but not because he believes it's due to its affiliation with the Town. It is a discussion that he believes we should have. For example, re: the S.E.C., one would think it would be an enduring committee but it has not met for a very long time and yet if South Hadley is to become a green community, one would think the Town would want an active Sustainable committee. Mike stated he has not made any decisions.

BWC Members' comments in response: If we weren't appointed by the SB, what would we look like? Individual committees that have evolved themselves have done so with a wider range of independence. Mike stated he didn't know about the precedent set in other communities. It was noted by a BWC member that Amherst has a transportation committee that includes Bike/Walk.

Mike stated that it is a lot of work for both the Clerk and the Town Administrator as a large amount of time is spent on assembling and tracking all the committees and boards and their members. He was asked if all of that is now on-line and while he admitted that it has gotten simpler and we now even have an on-line application, it still is a lot of work as the staff is trying to streamline responsibilities.

Mike was asked if a "cheat sheet" could be developed for town committee chairs so they know what they should be doing. Could the committee chairs be instructed on what they should do to become more viable and less of an administrative burden? BWC members believe there is a lot of non-communication.

A BWC member stated that the type of work a committee does should be the primary deciding factor, not the administrative side of it. All committee members must be a registered voter not just a South Hadley resident. Another BWC member stated that there is a difference between a "project-based" and a "systematic" approach for a committee's work and responsibilities. BWC members believe there is a legitimacy to being town-appointed and getting things done. BWC members voiced concerns that if the SB decides to remove the BWC's status as a town-appointed committee, it could likely result in an erroneous perception by town residents and employees that the BWC has done something wrong. BWC members stressed that its mandate and function is to be able to network across all applicable town groups. An ad hoc town-appointed committee carries more weight. Empowerment is so valuable for accomplishing tasks, projects and goals.

Mike thanked the BWC members for their input, stating it gave him another perspective to consider about BWC's importance and value to the Town that he hadn't been cognizant of before.

Redevelopment Authority – BWC is now to be part of its Advisory Committee and Canal Park should definitely be invited as well. Mariann went on behalf of BWC to the R.A. Advisory Committee meeting as our representative. Lucia will go in the future as needed though all BWC members are urged to attend as there is a lot in their plan that pertains to bicycling and walking. Hopefully the Redevelopment Authority will listen to our ideas particularly as they pertain to roundabouts, etc. The plan is now on-line and Mariann will send the link to us. She will also get the date of the next Advisory Committee meeting for us.

PVPC Task Force. Mike stated that priorities have to be made from PVPC and there are many ideas but only so much money. BWC members stressed that all recommendations should be put into the plan even if they won't happen for quite a long time. Mike suggested instead putting our own additional recommendations for biking and walking trails into an addendum for the final report. BWC members believed it would be better if they were all in the same place within the body of the plan, but Mike thought PVPC might not be amenable to this and as they are the gatekeeper to many grants, we don't want to offend them. Mike suggested that the Selectboard will accept the final PVPC Plan/Report as is and he recommended that it could then be immediately turned over to the BWC for its additions, etc. without changing the main thrust of the plan. Mike was asked if PVPC is doing an executive summary to be included in the Final Report and he didn't think so. This is something that BWC could create, including ensuring that prioritization of all recommendations, regardless of current feasibility, remain a key, crucial part of the plan.

Jim Reidy will come to BWC's Sept. 21st meeting to update/discuss planned sidewalks and street improvements and pavings.

We were asked to e-mail Mike if we come up with more ideas for him.

Valley Share Bike Program is putting in kiosks but the town will have to choose the places for the 4 designated ones for S.H. They will come in 2018 so in 2017 we will need to decide where they will go. Individuals, corporations, etc. are all encouraged to donate for the bikes.

Mayor Kos of Chicopee is talking about doing a bikeway in the Fairview section and Mike thought heading over to the Bynan property is a logical step. If BWC thinks of other places from the New Ludlow Road into South Hadley, let Mike know.

Minutes of June 15th were unanimously accepted.

BWC election results for FY 2016-2017:

Chair - Marian Millard

Vice-Chair- Melissa O'Brien

Clerk - to be rotated among the various members and Mariann will post the minutes on the Town's web page.

Officers were unanimously elected.

Aug. 17th is our next meeting and Lucia will be the clerk.

Other business:

Stone dust paths in conservation areas? Need to check this with the Conservation Commission.

Mariann gave an update about the Steering Committee members for our Aug. 4 Open Streets meeting.

Prioritization of hiking/biking trails at Black Stevens and Bynan land but this is not something we can do quickly. The Conservation Commission will need to weigh in. The BWC can address this after the PVPC Plan is accepted.

Mike Lamontagne will be contacted regarding the 9/18 interpretive trek to Black Stevens.

MA Audubon is having a three day conference on 9/22 - 9/24. Cost is \$25 a day; Mike has offered to reimburse up to four BWC members. The first day is at Acadia in Easthampton and sounds interesting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Initial Minutes Draft completed by Linda Young; final revisions discussed/voted on for unanimous acceptance at 8/17/2016 BWC meeting and implemented by Mariann Millard.