



South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee

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South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee (BWC) Minutes October 12, 2016

Meeting Opened at 7:15PM

Present: Nancy Bozek, Marilyn Gass, Melissa O'Brien, Mariann Millard, Lucia Foley, Margaret Jodoin,
Guest: Doris Dubois

The September 29, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Mariann opened meeting with a recommendation to limit length of meetings to two hours. All present were in favor of this. Mariann said that future guests would be advised of this timeframe so that they could be aware of this in preparing their remarks.

PVPC Liaison Update: Melissa advised that at the last Task Force Meeting an extension to the current contract would be made at the cost of approximately \$2000.

Mariann said that she had been advised by Mike Sullivan in a telephone conversation that the extension cost was \$2500 bringing the total cost from the original \$30,000 to \$37,500. The additional \$2500 would cover post-final adjustments to document. Adjustments would be made to the Executive Report and Narratives. There would be a November or December presentation to the Selectboard. This meeting would be scheduled after receiving report from PVPC.

Meeting with the Redevelopment Authority (RA) resulted in a request to synchronize the RA Report with the PVPC Report which would result in required amending to certain paragraphs and language in the PVPC Report. Specifically to:

1. Sidewalks: Needed dual sidewalks (walkable and ADA-compliant).
2. A change to "Protected Intersection" providing language that might include "Safeguarded intersections".
3. Crosswalks with zebra striping.
4. Connectivity from Chicopee line to various places in South Hadley.
5. Daylighting of Buttery Brook.

Melissa, Mariann and Lucia to work on clarifications, language and specific location of this material. Mike will be advised that RA has requested BWC to amend these certain paragraphs before a final report is presented. Frank DeToma Chair of RA and Selectboard member wants this coordination, clarification and strength to be in the PVPC final report.

FLAP Grant Proposal: Mariann received a request from PVPC for a BWC letter of endorsement and support for the 2016 River-To-Range Trail and the 2016 New England Scenic Trail Gateway Area projects. Mariann provided the BWC with a copy of her letter.

Community Life Plan: formerly the Town Wide Recreation Committee met on September 27. Mariann missed the meeting as she did not receive the email invitation even though one had been emailed to her via Mike Sullivan. She plans to attend all future meetings and has requested Mike to make her aware of sent invites to ensure there are no further email server issues.

DCR: A \$48k grant was accepted for the River-to-Range project.

Moving Together Conference was attended by Mike Sullivan and Richard Harris in Boston. They found it very informative and left feeling South Hadley was heading in the right direction and was making good strides

toward the bike trails and connectivity. Mike will provide more info to BWC after he has processed through the materials.

Roads and Private Ways: There are challenges with unaccepted, partially accepted and private ways. The Town Planner, DPW Superintendent and Mike Sullivan have been meeting to address the problem. BWC cites the Bagg-Pierce Conservation Area where we held a trek last Fall as problematic to reach via a private roadway (confusion and uncertainty on the part of the public in being allowed to access the property via this roadway).

Conservation Areas: Mariann noted that No Retroactive Parking Lots are allowed to be created/built on already-established conservation areas. Designation of a parking lot area must be made when first established as Conservation Land.

Open Streets Meeting set for October 13th. Core members from Holyoke are needed, as well as vendors and sponsors.

Town Committees: Janice Stone, Conversation Commission (CC), is willing to accept a MHC student to work on setting up a CC website page/link for Conversation Lands. Next step to getting this underway is to contact Tim Farnham. Mariann will contact him. Following a favorable reception from Tim Farnham, Mike Sullivan will be contacted by Mariann and then a BWC member would need to coordinate and supervise once a student is selected.

Planning Board Meeting regarding proposed condominiums on the former Fiber Optic land (across the street from Main Public Library). Gillian Woldorf from SH Falls Neighborhood Association, requested that BWC take a safety stand for bikers and pedestrians on the improperly planned driveways for each residence. Discussion followed and a decision not to take any further stance on this was concluded because overall, the plan does not represent a **significant** safety hazard to bikers/pedestrians. Mariann had already been to one PB meeting and spoke as a citizen and rep of BWC suggesting that more safety enhancements, e.g. signage, driveway markings, etc. at the driveway entrances would serve to lesson potential for accidents. This suggestion was well-received by the developer and noted by the PB toward final plans.

CPA BWC is still committed to working on campaign; Mariann will follow-up with the CPA group. Mariann sees opportunity for Tony Judge to write an Op Ed Letter in Town Reminder.

Treks: October 23 -- MHC Upper Lake Trails. Mariann and Nancy Bozek have walked the trail. Joy Collins, Equestrian Program Ride Manager has been contacted for background history/info and parking will be accommodated at the Kendall lots.

November 20 – Bicentennial Canal Park Trail. Mariann will be meeting with Mitch Resnick on 11/2 to work out details. There is mention of possible Geocaching info to be provided during the trek.

December 4 -- Bachelor Brook Trek (culminating with a Pot Luck at the home of Mariann and Jeff Millard—TBD).

Spring 2017 -- Prospect Hill Trail Trek to be combined with “Hidden Gems of MHC” which is planned to coincide with the MHC Greenhouse Show in March.

October 2017 -- Lithia Springs trek to include picnicking. Inspired by new parking off Route 116.

Marilyn Gass made a suggestion to have a specific Handicap & Sight-Impaired trek for the future.

Also there was mention of a possible winter Sugar Maple trek event on the property of Maurice LaFlamme; Mariann will follow-up with him.

Next meeting date was set for November 16 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Jodoin