



**South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee**  
**[Southhadleyma.gov/bikewalk](http://Southhadleyma.gov/bikewalk)**  
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**South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee (BWC) Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 21, 2018; South Hadley Public Library-Trustees Room**

Present: Mariann Millard (Chair); Nancy Bozek, M P Chevrette, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass, Margaret Jodoin, Melissa O'Brien, Huguette Supinski  
Not Present: Larry Dubois  
Guest: Doris Dubois

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 by the Chair.

Minutes of the last meeting on 2/21/18 were approved 7-0 with 1 abstention.

**Main Street TIP Reconstruction Project**

After displaying seven maps (plus one overview) of all the sections of the area covered by the Project, which has received a \$1.8 million grant, the goal of the BWC at this meeting was to review the plans and schematics one by one and to make recommendations with an aim to help Town Administration determine what the plan should look like in its final form.

The Town has decided not to have a rotary at Bridge and Main streets, and BWC agrees with that major decision for pedestrian/biker safety reasons.

The BWC used the brainstorming technique and came up with the following (presented in narrative form):

More bike lanes may result in fewer vehicles and therefore less parking needed. Emphasize the sidewalks; drivers will park where they can. Whenever possible, separate sidewalks, bike lanes and traffic lanes. Green barrier needed in commercial district, perhaps just on one side; no parking on one side only.

Shared-use paths might employ chevrons in road for bicycles. Like to see benches and greenery at the Bridge/Main Streets intersection to also improve the seating amenities and connect to little park in front of Stoney's Pub. Green up the corners with shrubs and flowers. Use a brick-paver design for crosswalks.

Need a visual launch point for bike racks so people know where to leave their bikes, i.e., "Start here!" Identifiable launching sites all along the Project for bicycles, with lighting, should make all areas clearly accessible to bicyclists and pedestrians (hereinafter referred to as "peds"). Emphasize consistency and uniform signage for bike trails, peds paths, etc. Main St. pathway for bikers and peds should emphasize 1) socialization; 2) security; and 3) an invitation to all, especially kids, the elderly and the mobility-challenged.

More green spaces from Lamb St. to Chicopee city line. Designs elsewhere could be incorporated into this particular area. Possible use of Beachgrounds Park and parking area (anticipating a "Phase II"). Extend the shared-use path to parking lot entrance of the Beachgrounds. Put in speed bumps/humps approaching the dangerous and narrow curve at Spring St. Specifically, BWC has safety concerns about the bike lanes being IN the road because of the speed of vehicles and narrowness of the street around this curve.

Utilize the sidewalk that goes through the Beachgrounds. Safer access for fishing at the Beachgrounds could be achieved by extending the shared-use path to and through the Beachground's parking lot.

BWC likes the look of brick in the asphalt designs of all types. Continuity is good, but intersections can be of different designs.

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*The following recommendations will be forwarded to Mike Sullivan for use by Tighe & Bond:*

The BWC feels the schematics/proposals by Tighe & Bond work very well from Canal Street to the Chicopee City Line; positive feedback! That said:

BWC would like to see these overriding philosophies/goals drive the entire improvement project:

- Increase the "sociability and safety" of this corridor to encourage more "ped" and bike use/engagement in the Falls to visit businesses, relax via amenities, e.g., benches in appropriate sitting spots, and to "launch" to other sites in the area. By "launch", for example, we mean increasing the presence of bike racks along the way in appropriate places to allow bikers to safely leave their bikes to enter businesses, the library, other trails, parks, etc., esp. in areas where the bike lanes must share the road with vehicles. For peds, "launch" can mean connecting to other trails, parks and sidewalks, which could be done via **simple/yet striking** wayfinding signage, historical markers, etc.
- Increase the "beauty" of area with year-round plantings (to include flowers and flowering shrubs) especially near inviting places, to sit and relax, enticing the public to come and to explore the Main Street corridor.
- Use distinctive designs such as brick-like pavers for shared use paths and to mark ped crossings; avoid zebra stripes or plain asphalt. This helps with engagement and enhancing the overall appeal of the corridor long-term. Investors anyone?!
- Lighting amenities should be re-reviewed to ensure safety for peds/bikers throughout the entire corridor--are they truly enough as planned and do they really hit all the dark corners, etc.??
- Of the two visual schematics (pictures, drawings of cars, bikers, peds, etc.), BWC believes the "**Single Shared-Use Path Independent of Vehicular Way**" is the **only one** the Town should employ (BWC does not believe the other drawings for the "Dual Bike Lane in Vehicular Way" are appropriate for use and safety, esp. for bikers, for the Main Street corridor.

#### **Canal Street to Carew Street**

- Understandable that there is no designated bike lane given the narrowness of road in this section and problem with current sidewalk allowance. To overcome, chevron markings in the road are necessary as well as more bike racks at the south end of the library parking lot.

#### **Carew Street to Bridge Street**

- BWC greatly supports the "**shared-use path**" concept for bikes and peds - **in fact, we think this is the best way to go wherever possible along the Main Street corridor**. We don't envision the corridor becoming a busy bike lane; instead, we see more peds using it.
- We love having a "buffer" wherever possible along the Main Street corridor to protect bikers/peds from vehicles.

#### **Intersection**

YES! Much better design than what is currently there, thanks! Additional improvements requested:

- Increase viewing/sitting amenities such as appropriately placed benches to enhance and invite users to that little park that will now have more green space - it's so currently underused as a green space - very sad little spot.
- Let's see more flowering shrubs and flowers to entice users to this green space and park area.

#### **Bridge Street to Lamb Street**

Same thoughts as above for Carew to Bridge

#### **Lamb Street to Chicopee City Line**

- BWC found this section to be the most problematic for "safety and socialization" given the narrow street, the bend in the street, etc. Because of these factors, we were not thrilled to see the bike lanes having to be in the street.
- Is there a way to use more of the Beachgrounds "road frontage" to consider a shared use path for bikers/peds? Could we enhance the entrance in/out of Beachgrounds and the current concrete sidewalk **in** the park to make it more of a **shared-use path** to increase usage along this particular section?
- BWC would like to see more "launch" sites for bikers, e.g. bike racks, better wayfinding signs for peds to encourage access to this park, the historic cemetery, to the trail along the river, to historical info, etc.

## **Other Business**

March and April planned treks:

March – 3/25 at Black-Stevens – all set!

April – 4/22 (also Earth Day!) – Bagg-Pierce. Available BWC members will do an *advance* walk-through to check the trek route; date/time TBD.

May – If RR&S goes forward, BWC supports this community event and public participation (like last year) so the RR&S IS essentially our trek for this month. If for some reason the RR&S does not go on as planned, then BWC at the April meeting will consider holding one of its normal public treks, location TBD.

## **Community Updates**

Mount Holyoke College Summer Intern/CC Trails Program: The good news is that it looks like we will have two interns!

Approved Leaping Well Nature Trail Warrant Article: The Trail will be worked on this summer after being put out to bid.

Lithia Springs Reservoir Access: Ms. O'Meara is being kept informed. Mary Beth shared her opinion on Peter Michael's walk through. Mariann will ask for that feedback.

Master Bike-Ped Plan: BWC members had expressed the desire at the 2/21 meeting to possibly have a Town-wide working group to address and provide ongoing input on the Plan. Feedback from John Hine or Bruce Forcier, SelectBoard members, may be forthcoming, depending on any real information to share with BWC. Mariann has an informal coffee meeting scheduled with Judy Gooch, Chair of the Master Implementation Committee (MPIC), regarding Master Plans.

Identifiers for Treks: Snap armbands: tabled for April meeting because Larry was not present and he is spearheading that research. Huguette offered in the meantime to create an armband and to bring a prototype for consideration to the April meeting.

Flora/fauna resource information on BWC's web page: this is tabled until further notice because of the potential MHC Summer Intern Project to happen this summer. The project is intended to map Conservation Land trails for the CC web page. Until that is accomplished or decided otherwise, BWC does not feel it's appropriate at this time to place this type of resource info on its own web page.

The next BWC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the SH Main Library. Margaret will clerk.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Chevy