



South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee

southhadleyma.gov/bikewalk

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South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee (BWC) Minutes July 18, 2018 | South Hadley Public Library

Present: Marilyn Gass, Larry Dubois, Margaret Jodoin, Mariann Millard, Nancy Bozek, Melissa O'Brien

Absent: Lucia Foley, Huguette Supinsky

Guests: Doris Dubois

Meeting commenced at 7pm.

The Minutes of the June 20 meeting were approved as is unanimously.

Chevy resigned as a BWC member at the end of June. We thank him for his contributions during the past year.

Mariann noted that Larry Tucker, Chairman Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board, who spoke at the River to Range Opening Ceremony is considering becoming a member of Bike-Walk.

R2R Trail Stewardship and other Conservation News:

Mariann reported that she and Melissa had met with Anne Capra. Some of the information resulting from that meeting follows:

There was confirmation that the 1 mile ADA loop trail (Phase 1) was now complete. The other already-existing trails in the conservation area would be tweaked and would be incorporated into Grant Phases 2 and 3. Anne is working with Americorp on this. Several copies of the map that Lucia Foley had posted online were passed around in order for members to see the outline of these trails.

It was clarified that Bike-Walk would only be Stewards for the completed Loop Trail and that the definition of steward would require that we form and promote a Work Party to pick-up trash on an annual or bi-annual basis, under the direction/management of Anne Capra.

There are plans to clean-up the "dog leg" that is connected to the Loop Trail (the old trail road to the Bachelor Brook inlet) and Anne will let Bike-Walk know when that is going to happen. Perhaps that will be late fall when the die-out of the foliage occurs and ticks are less abundant.

Melissa and Mariann met Aviva, the MHC Intern. They felt that she was doing a fantastic job, especially in the mapping of Bynan, Bagg-Pierce and Newton-Carver-Jones properties. Mariann invited her to attend BWC meetings per her interest/availability.

Overall, Anne is working especially hard in trying to open up the River View and is also concentrating on Canal Park, the Leaping Well Nature Trail and Bachelor Brook. BWC greatly appreciates the hard work and efforts of the Planning & Conservation Dept.

September 16 Go4Life Stroll Event:

Mariann announced a Tuesday July 24 meeting at the Council on Aging for continued planning on the Go4Life Stroll at the River to Range Trail. Nancy Yesu and Leslie Hennessey of the Council on Aging, Anne Capra from Conservation and Bike-Walk are working together on this event. Currently two Interpreters are scheduled to provide info on the river and area flora at the rest areas of the trail: Leo LaBonte (local historian) and Dennis Swarouth (Tree Committee).

BWC will be looking for help from the High School Students via Leo's Club. Big Y has been approached to supply a water donation.

In regards to parking, ideas ranging from Brunelle's, MHC Boathouse, using a bus to convey people who park at the Council on Aging are all being discussed; the trail parking lot is small for a large public gathering.

Publicity for the event is scheduled to begin in August.

Community Updates & Events:

The Town Administrator's Update was sent previously by Mariann in an email to Bike-Walk members.

Mariann accompanied Ira Brezinski, at his request, on a walk around the Ledges Golf Course on July 15. This is a report from that walk: There is a band of woods and/or vegetation of varying depth and density boarding the course and it connects to the Newton, Carver Jones Conservation property; a small 10-20 foot easement in one portion of would be needed, due to the narrowness of the natural buffer zone. The trail would allow for pedestrians to use the golf paths where applicable, i.e. no safety issues while golf is in play. Mariann emphasized that Bike-Walk would not be leading this initiative and that the Select Board Chair would be doing so.

Overall, it would no doubt be a long term, multi-phase, costly project involving grants. A lot of signage would be required to maintain safety for all users. The property has been always deemed for use as Passive Recreation.

Lithia Springs Reservoir Access:

Any further discussion and/or action by BWC is currently "on hold" until further notice as Water District 2 needs to consider the Hiker Parking lot access, per Jim Menard's email post-June 20th BWC meeting.

Valley Bike Share:

Our primary role is that of advocacy and promotion, which has been requested/encouraged by Mike Sullivan for this new program in town. Next meeting we will discuss a game plan for this.

Several questions/comments were brought up and discussed regarding the kiosks:

- When would bikes be stored for the winter?
- Is there a possibility of a 3rd kiosk at the Woodlawn Center?
- A BWC member noted that the actual kiosk may be too close to the sidewalk at the Police Station.

Other Business:

Marilyn Gass reported that some members of the Town Garden were requesting that the bike rack which was put there a few years ago, be painted another color and moved closer to the actual garden. Larry reported that another small bike rack installed closer to the garden would be beneficial. Mariann will follow-up with town administration regarding this request.

Bike-Walk has agreed to submit a letter of support for the MassWorks Grant Application process for Newton/Lyman Streets Improvement; this request came from Richard Harris, Town Planner. Mariann will submit the requested letter to him.

Complete Streets Prioritization Plan & final project list is now on the Planning Board Website. South Hadley has received a \$385,000 Grant.

For the Leaping Well Nature Trail, there is a mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting at the crescent-shaped parking lot on Mosier Street on Monday, 7/30. Mariann plans to attend for FYI and encouraged other BWC members as well.

Marilyn Gass, with Nancy Bozek as a back-up, has agreed to be the clerk for the August 15th 7 pm meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Jodoin