



## South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee

[southhadleyma.gov/bikewalk](http://southhadleyma.gov/bikewalk)

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### South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee (BWC) Minutes January 31, 2018 | South Hadley Public Library

Present: Mariann Millard (Chair), Nancy Bozek, Larry Dubois, Doris Dubois, Marilyn Gass, Margaret Jodoin, Melissa O'Brien  
Not Present: Chevy, Lucia Foley, Huguette Supinski  
Guests: Hattie Finkel (Precinct D Town Meeting Member), Mary Beth O'Meara (Property Owner), Mike Sullivan (Town Administrator), Bruce Forcier and John Hine (Selectboard Members), Frank DeToma (District 2 Water Commissioner Chair), Kenneth McKenna (District 2 Prudential Committee Chair)

Paul Jahnige, Director, DCR Greenways and Trail Program, was expected but unable to attend due to illness. Rick Constant (District 2 Prudential Committee) was invited but unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Mariann Millard followed by introductions and affiliations of those present. The Chair requested that Minutes be delayed until conclusion of the fact-finding session.

**Purpose of meeting with guests:** The Chair requested a fact-finding session to understand problems and issues related to walking to Lithia Springs Reservoir from various parking areas, namely the Hikers' Parking lot on Amherst Road and parking areas on Lithia Springs Road, without going onto personal property.

As a reference point, the Town's online Assessor's map was used to view areas of discussion.

Frank DeToma shared that the original concept was to walk south from the Hikers' Parking Lot, along Amherst Road, to Pearl Street, to Lithia Springs Road. Mariann shared that the public assumes they can instead access trails directly from the Hikers' Parking area, including the District 2-owned dirt/gravel road immediately beyond the chain-link fence; this is due to the fact that there are no posted directions at the lot to explain this walking route. Ken McKenna said that there has been District 2 discussion of new signage to inform the public, as No Trespassing signs continue to be removed. Due to insurance liability issues, District 2 does not want the public walking on D2-owned land. Critical points were made by the various guest attendees about the topography, dangerous terrain, and expanded parking.

Frank DeToma summarized two major discussion points:

- 1) Possibly move the gate forward on Lithia Springs Road and create a new larger parking area,
- 2) Pursue conversation with DCR to see if there is interest in acquiring District 2 land and creating accessible trails from Hikers' Parking to Lithia Springs. This would also help reduce parked cars on Lithia Springs Road, which continues to create problems for private property owners, despite numerous No Parking/Tow signs posted.

Mariann again brought up the public confusion at various Town hiking areas with lack of signage or the meaning of No Trespassing signs. Bruce agreed that the two options should be pursued and that Ken and Frank would talk to DCR to see if something is feasible. Mariann stated that regardless of any chosen option, it should include making it clear where the public can access public lands, with clearly marked trails and signage.

Mariann will follow-up with Paul Jahnige at DCR to schedule a meeting with him and guests present at tonight's meeting.

**Other Business:**

After the departure of guests, the December 20 Minutes and correspondence from Chevy regarding the Minutes were discussed and will be revised by Lucia to include information sent by Chevy. The revised Minutes were unanimously approved. Discussion followed about Chevy's proposal of changes in town to reflect a running lane within the marked bike lanes. A motion was made and passed unanimously not to pursue bike lane marking changes at this time.

**February 25<sup>th</sup> Trek at Ledges Golf Course:** Depending on snow conditions, BWC will conduct a public trek with one of these two "game plans":

Plan A: Snowshoeing on the grounds (avoiding the tee areas) if there is enough snow cover.

Plan B: If there's not enough snow, the alternative plan is to walk the golf course paths to include trekking through the adjacent Newton, Carver, Jones Conservation areas.

Mariann will contact Andy Rogers to advise him of BWC's planned trek.

**Toth Property Trail Update:** The Conservation Commission considered, but ultimately rejected (as not logistically feasible) applying for a Recreational Trail Project grant to help offset part of the Toth property trail development costs. They would like to consult with BWC about further RTP grants for next year. Their goal is to have a management plan for each conservation property.

**Slap Bands for BWC Members During Treks:** Larry stated that he has looked at various slap bands, noted their problems, and determined that he has a better alternative design. These would be worn by BWC members during its community walks.

Next meeting will be held on February 21 with the possibility of Paul Jahnige of the DCR Greenways and Trail program attending.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bozek and Marilyn Gass