



South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee
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South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee (BWC) Minutes
Wednesday, April 18, 2018; South Hadley Public Library-Trustees Room

Present: Mariann Millard (Chair), Nancy Bozek, Larry Dubois, Marilyn Gass, Huguette Supinski, Lucia Foley, Margaret Jodoin
Not Present: Chevy, Melissa O'Brien
Guests: Doris Dubois

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Mariann Millard.
The minutes of the March 21, 2018 Meeting were approved as amended by majority vote.

April 22nd Trek -- Bagg-Pierce: Meet at 12:45 PM in Lower Parking lot at McCray's Farm. No snacks are needed as we are encouraging attendees to enjoy refreshments purchased at McCray's. The pre-trek excursion found a lot of tree debris but confirmed that the trail was very walkable. Anne Capra was to alert Chris Ryan, Tree Warden, to one very large downed tree. This tree if not removed would not prevent the Trek from happening as it could be skirted without danger. The Red Trail along the river will be included depending on the desires and stamina of the attendees.

Trek arm bands: Huguette brought in a sample of one armband she had made. Discussion followed. Huguette will make another sample adding more Velcro in black, as well as a black Bike/Walk Logo. Lucia will supply a transferable logo for the design.

Community Updates

Town Reminder: Mariann emailed the Town Reminder (Turley family management staff) to inquire about coverage of Treks and Calendar listings since they did not publish, as requested, the March trek. Aimee Henderson, Exec. Editor, replied and subsequently Lisa Redmond who is the new Editor. After communicating with both Town Reminder representatives plans are in place for continued newspaper coverage of BWC activities. Mariann plans to meet in person with Lisa at a future date.

Leaping Well Nature Trail development: Pete Westover is working on the delineation of the bog bridges and crescent-shape parking lot; information to be sent to Anne Capra, Conservation Commission. Mike Sullivan in a recent meeting with Mariann assured her that BWC will be consulted re: planned benches, signage and other details.

Public Outreach Plan: Ann Capra, Conservation Commission, contacted Mariann regarding setting up a partnership with Conservation, BWC and others. The plan would be to put together 3 to 4 working partners for publicity and upkeep of specific trails in town conservation areas. Some of the entities mentioned were the High School Environmental Club, Church Groups, Lions Club, Scouts and the Historical Commission. Also mentioned were local banks and E-Ink. Also discussed was the need for a Publicity Campaign that would include Cable 15 TV, High School Journalism students, KYT and Town Reminder. Anne suggested a Monthly Forum that would serve to update the community on these trails and the work needed to maintain them. It was suggested that Anne Capra be invited to a BWC meeting so that she could present her plan to the BWC; Mariann will follow-up with Anne for the 5/16 meeting.

MHC Summer Intern Trails Project: Mariann reported that there are 2 Mount Holyoke Candidates who have applied to begin the mapping of the Conservation Area Trails as well as conduct other related tasks. Anne Capra at the CC is

overseeing this project with MHC; the goal is to have them start in July.

MPIC Presentation at Select Board April 17: Mariann spoke of her appreciation to Judy Gooch who reported to the Select Board as part of the Annual Report summary that would be completed at time of Town Meeting. Judy praised the BWC for their up-to date postings of Agendas, Minutes and Member information on the Town Website. Mariann met recently with Judy to discuss master plan bike-ped direction/concerns for BWC. Mariann passed along Judy's kudos to BWC members for the outreach to other town entities, encouragement of community involvement and for pursuing the tasks outlined in the Master Plan.

River To Range Trail: Mariann reported that over Easter Weekend she had taken the approximately one mile walk and was pleased to see how the meandering trail (which appeared very accessible) with markings for planned benches was progressing. Some discussion followed regarding future phases and the location of the entrance to connect to the Mount Holyoke Range trails near Rt. 47. A formal Opening Ceremony is planned when all work is completed. A concern was expressed about mobility accessibility in the wooded section; Mariann will follow-up with Anne Capra for determination.

Complete Streets: There was some discussion as to the May 1 grant cycle. Richard Harris and Jim Reidy have been meeting with PVPC and the Final Draft to the State has been completed and currently the Town is waiting to hear from the State. Mike Sullivan has reported that he had been in contact with Meredith Development the owner/developer of River Lodge Road and that there was some negotiation in progress regarding the developer making the road acceptable for MassDOT Standards for the Town to consider taking over (via Town Meeting vote process).

Lithia Springs Reservoir Access Project: It appears that we have made no progress in getting a trail agreement consensus from the Rt. 116 Hiker Parking Lot, post-DCR walk-through of another potential new trail. BWC members are in agreement that another meeting (June 20) should take place with all parties to re-discuss status to date and action steps moving forward. Also it was agreed that Mariann should contact Peter Michaels at DCR and Dennis Rochon, private property owner, to schedule a walk-through for BWC members. Perhaps the Kestrel Trust might become an interested stakeholder in this project; Mariann will contact them. BWC members agreed that some new input is needed on the resolution of making this area truly and easily accessible to the community.

Other Business:

Huguette reported that Massachusetts Council on Aging wants to promote walking and a \$600 grant is being offered to start molding non-walkers into walkers. She is spearheading this group at the South Hadley Council on Aging. She outlined some of her ideas and it was felt that perhaps BWC could partner in a Low Mobility/Low Visibility Walk in September as part of the September State-wide 2018 Family Fun Walk. BWC members believe the new River To Range Trail would be a perfect venue for this type of trek.

Larry brought up the water pipe installation on Newton Street. He suggested BWC contact proper entities to promote Bike Lanes to be marked out on the new paving that would be done after the pipe installation was complete. Mariann will follow-up with Mike Sullivan on this item.

It was suggested that BWC implement a new policy of inviting newly elected Select Board Members to a regular meeting to get acquainted with ongoing projects and members. Members agreed and it was decided that Mariann will invite Jeff Cyr to the May Meeting.

Fall Treks

September: River to Range Trail

October: Return to River to Range and go on to the extended Bachelor Brook Trail to Rt. 47

November and December: much discussion but nothing decided at this time.

Announcements: Lucia reminded everyone about the fast approaching River Roll & Stroll on May 6 and encouraged BWC members to volunteer.

Next Meeting: May 16: Melissa O'Brien to Clerk
Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Jodoin