



**South Hadley, MA  
Bike-Walk Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 19, 2018; 7:00 PM  
South Hadley Public Library-Trustees Room**

**Attendees:** Mariann Millard (chair), Melissa O'Brien, Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley, Margaret Jodoin, Marilyn Gass, Huguette Supinski

**Absent:** Nancy Bozek

**Guest:** Doris Dubois

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Minutes of August 15, 2018 meeting were approved by majority vote.

**Recap of September 16, 2018 Go4Life Stroll at River-To-Range Trail:**

- Official count: 80 people and 4 dogs
- Pantry donations: 91 pounds of food for the food pantry and \$9 in cash contributions
- Leslie Hennessey would like to make this trek an annual event in October to take advantage of the fall foliage
- Points to consider for 2019 Stroll:
  - Additional canopies for folks to get out from the sun
  - If partnering with CoA, walk needs to be accessible and reconsider starting time to a later time in afternoon (to minimize potential heat in September)
  - Loomis Village could be an alternate venue thereby enabling their residents to get more involved (Loomis trails may be problematic for mobility accessibility)
  - Consider Upper Lake or Lower Lake trails at MHC keeping in mind the potential issue of fallen leaves on trails
  - Consider including bicycles if appropriate
- MHC has now made available their walking/running maps. All are encouraged to go their website to check them out.
- Mariann will check with Michela at MHC to see if anything could be done about the raised roots on the Upper Lake Trail to make it more accessible for elderly walkers
- Mariann will also be reaching out to Mike Sullivan to gain a better understanding of the R2R trail layout to see if a buffer, around the perimeter of the open field, could be set up to enable the planting of native plants to encourage monarch butterflies to visit
- The planting of new native plants that Anne coordinated with the SHHS, truly embellished the area
- Leo and Dennis were very pleased how their presentations were received by all. We should consider doing this on future walks.
- Special thanks were extended to Leslie Hennessey, Nancy Yesu and Anne Capra for all they did to make this trek a tremendous success

**Trek arm bands:** Well received by the BWC members. Cost came in at \$5.00 per arm band and Huguette will donate the proceeds to the Food Pantry on behalf of BWC. Huguette to inform Nancy of this decision.

**October 21<sup>st</sup> Trek @ 1pm.** In-depth trek through Black Stevens. Parking at South Hadley High School. Mariann will write the Town Reminder article and post Anne Capra's new map on our web page. Preliminary walk by BWC members to check out trails will be held on Monday October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm.

**November 18<sup>th</sup> Trek @1pm.** Trails Extravaganza at Mount Holyoke College. Since Mariann will be returning from vacation on November 17<sup>th</sup>, will need a back-up lead in the event her flight is delayed.

**December 9<sup>th</sup> Trek @ 1pm:** Ledges Golf Course

### **BWC's overall strategy plan with other Town entities to collaborate/support biking & walking**

- BWC current email blasting policy is to promote our treks and communicate anything that is biking/walking related. We discussed, if other types of major initiatives are happening around town, if we would consider "blasting" their messages. Consensus from the group, was not to change our current policy.
- The town's Webpage is due for a refresh. Mike Sullivan has invited Lucia to provide her expertise and feedback to this initiative. This is very much a work in progress and will have minimal impact to our webpage.
- BWC webpage – kudos to Lucia for keeping it updated and current. She will continue using the newsletter format. Maps should link to their originating source on the Conservation site. We'll hold off posting any of our trek maps until after the new Conservation Trails are finished. Mariann to check with Anne when Conservation maps will be available.

**Promotion of Walking/Biking Activities in Town:** On a monthly or bi-monthly basis, collaborate with other town groups to pass on outdoor-focused information of upcoming treks, conservation, walking, safety on trails, outdoor gear, trail steward etc. Articles would be owned by BWC, written by guest columnist (500 words) as appropriate and published in Town Reminder.

**Sidewalk Scenic Trail Program:** Leaping Well Nature Trail-Sidewalk Trail Route will proceed. Route to include Warner-Han Arboretum and area sidewalks. Huguetta will do preliminary recon for review at our next meeting.

**Leaping Well Nature Trail:** Town had to rebid the bog bridges and trail construction. The bids are due this week and next. Since this project has already been funded, there are no money issues.

**Next Meeting:** October 17<sup>th</sup> and Marilyn Gass will clerk.

November and December meetings will be combined on November 28<sup>th</sup>, no meeting in December. Mariann will confirm with Joe Rodio that the library will still be available, or an alternate location will be needed.

Meeting Adjournment @ 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Huguetta Supinski