



www.southhadley.org/bikewalk

Bike/Walk Committee Minutes | Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:30pm via Zoom

Roll Call

Andy Rogers, Recreation Director; Jim Buckley, Ruth Camuse, Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass

Approval of Minutes

Marilyn made a motion to approve minutes for December, 13 2022 as amended, which was seconded by Jim and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Treks/Events

- **January 2023**—No Trek scheduled
- **February 26, 2023**—Ledges Trek—Sunday at 1:00pm (participants gather at 12:45pm)
- Ruth will contact Carolyn about scheduling a pre-walk to identify the best route. Lucia and Jim can also help with route reconnaissance, and Lucia will plan to do the map, but neither is available on the date of the Trek. Andy suggested going by the pond if conditions permit; Last year we went around clubhouse and down the hill by the 9th hole, then across the bridge and up to around the 5th hole and back.
- **March 2023**
Marilyn spoke again with Maurice LaFlamme of Stone Silo Maple Farms (355 North Main Street), but as the weather has been unseasonably warm he can't be certain yet if the sap will be running. She will connect with him again before our February meeting.
- **April 22, 2023**—Bynan Earth Day Trek—Saturday (time to be confirmed)
Rebekah Cornell will assist, Trek may include vernal pools. Rebekah was unable to come tonight, so we will have details from her at our next meeting.
- **May—TBD**
Last year we did a bike event in May for bike safety month, which included a Bike Rodeo. Jim asked Andy if the Town has any education programs planned on the new state law that was recently passed requiring drivers to observe a 4-foot buffer between pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, bikers, and others. Ruth noted that educational programs don't necessarily have to be outdoors or part of a larger event—things like safety training or bike maintenance clinics could be held inside, where inclement weather wouldn't be a concern. Part of the law calls for putting the info into driver's ed training and it will be on tests for drivers. It was noted that Lucy, the Dept. of Transportation's Safe Routes for Schools Outreach Coordinator works with schools and she helped with the Bike Rodeo last year. Ruth has Lucy's contact info and will try to connect with her on what is being planned for schools.
Andy will invite Chief Gunderson to our next meeting so we can talk about what we might be able to do to educate people about the new driving law and changes to crosswalks, along with other ideas for bike safety programming.

Master Trail Brochure

Rebekah Cornell has been continuing to work on the Master Trail brochure and it is coming along well. We have \$1000 to use toward the brochure and Conservation will also be able to contribute some funds.

Lithia Springs/Robert Frost Trail (Mass Trails Grant)

There is a new District 2 water commissioner and Andy recently talked to District 2 chief Todd Calkins about Lithia Springs access concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

Kids Summer Races

The City of Springfield does a similar race event with the Greater Springfield Harriers and the Springfield Parks Department (Andy will forward a copy of their brochure). A Recreation Commission member had kids do Springfield event, which ran a 2.4mile loop in Forest Park. Andy suggested that a summer race program in South Hadley might focus on different trails each week—such as Bynan and Black Stevens Conservation Areas, River-to-Range Trails, Ledges (in the evening?), the MHC trails around the ponds, to also showcase our resources, and events might also be open to adults. An estimated \$20 fee for the summer would include a T-Shirt and perhaps trophies/awards at end of season. Kids could also participate on a one-time basis. Springfield holds its events on Tuesdays at 6:30pm, so South Hadley would choose a different night. Races might run from the end of June to mid-August. . There could also be a race/win component, with points for top finishers, special prizes, etc. Some locations (such as River to Range) could offer a wheelchair option. In addition to Recreation Dept. staff, volunteers will be recruited from Bike/Walk Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committees, etc.

SHPD Bike Safety Grant

Andy noted that there is \$1400 left in a SHPD bike safety grant and we need ideas on how best to use that funding. Ruth mentioned that Northampton had a community ride, using bike paths and bike lanes. We should ask Police Chief Gunderson what routes for bikes we could use that would be safe for families since we have nothing off road.

Buttery Brook PARC Grant

South Hadley is in the process of applying for a PARC grant for Phase II renovations at BATTERY BROOK PARK, to include an accessible trail to encompass the area behind where animals used to be and behind the old dam area. The grant period generally opens in April and proposals must be submitted by July. Marilyn noted that the park has been looking very good, and Larry said that Bill Simard and his group have done a nice job. There have been some vandalism issues, including graffiti and damage to buildings, especially toward the back of the park and some high school-age youth have been involved. With Pickleball and those lights, the front of the park is doing well. Andy noted that the Ledges, Canal Park, and other parks have also had problems. Police do patrol the areas and people have been prosecuted.

Open Forum

- An AED unit with a storage box, like the one installed at BATTERY BROOK PARK in October, is about \$3500. Andy would like to see another 6-10 in town, including a second one at BATTERY BROOK PARK, and others at Beachgrounds Park, the Community Garden, and by the Senior Center. Youth football and HS teams have their own. About 150 people went through CPR intro sessions held in connection with the pickleball courts. A follow-up Red Cross CPR training through the Board of Health and Fire District 1 is scheduled for February 25 at the Middle School Cafeteria.
- Agenda item for next meeting—Commemorative Bench Program
Discussion of possibilities to create a 'parklet' with a CT River viewpoint as bench program demonstration project

NEXT MEETING

Going forward, meetings will be at 6:00pm. The next meeting will be scheduled at **6:00pm on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 via Zoom**. (Note: The February 14 meeting was later canceled, the next meeting is

Respectfully submitted, Lucia Foley, Member

.....

Master Plan

Actions for which Bike/Walk is the primary entity are:

- G1-1:** Development of brochures/trail maps, support for wayfinding **(ST)**
- G1-2:** Encourage families/school children to use/enjoy outdoor resources **(I)**
- G2-1:** Create master map for locating outdoor seating/gathering areas **(ST)**
- G3-2:** Develop commemorative bench program **(ST)**

Also, related action for Trek planning:

- G1-14:** Develop historic walks around town **(ST)**
(Primary Entity-Historic Commission; Sub-Entities-Disabilities Commission, Bike/Walk)