



## South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee

southhadleyma.gov/bikewalk

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### South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee (BWC) Minutes January 16, 2019 | South Hadley Public Library

Present: Mariann Millard (Chair), Nancy Bozek, Larry Dubois, Melissa O'Brien, Lucia Foley, Margaret Jodoin, Huguette Supinski

Guests: Doris Dubois, Tracy Adamski

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. Minutes of the November 28, 2018 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members present, with a small addition noting that information about the 'Walking the Falls' brochure and map developed by the Rise of the Falls Committee will be added to the BWC web page.

#### Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

BWC Chair Mariann Millard introduced the consultant for the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) update project, Tracy Adamski, AICP, of Tighe & Bond. She will be working in collaboration with Harriman, the consultants for the Town's Master Plan update project, which begins at the same time. It is anticipated that the OSRP project will conclude by April/May so that the Town will be eligible to apply for grants in the next cycle.

Tracy explained that the state wants a plan that:

- Includes general/background information from the existing plan
- Focuses on more than just the River and Range, and also addresses sidewalks, bike lane improvements, trails, connections
- Identifies goals (over the next 7 years) and departments to carry out actions
- Identifies criteria for acquiring parcels of land

In discussion, BWC members noted several items the new plan should reference:

- Active and passive recreation, plus open space and protection of natural resources
- Inclusion of resources under the direction of businesses and other entities (such as Brunelle's Marina, Mount Holyoke College [Art Museum, trails, etc.], and Texon Park)
- Transportation services such as Valley Bike Share
- Planning initiatives such as Smart Growth Zones in the Falls and Newton Street neighborhood, along with the Falls Redevelopment Authority, should be included in the plan for their potential to advance connectivity
- Concerns about departmental 'silos,' communication/PR capacity

As the OSRP Committee is meant to include a BWC member, Lucia Foley volunteered to serve as the primary BWC representative and will submit her application to the Selectboard. Mariann and Melissa will serve as back-up reps. The OSRP Update will be a BWC agenda item until the project has concluded, and Lucia will share information and updates

with BWC members to keep everyone informed.

## **Treks**

### **February 24, 2019—Maple Sugar Trek**

Mariann will get a promo flyer out to local schools and get information to the Town Reminder and our email list. The Trek will take place on the Maurice LaFlamme/Stone Silo Maple Syrup Farm property and sugar house, with a glimpse of the nearby LeBlanc Conservation area. Offsite parking will be available on side streets. BWC members are asked to bring goodies to share in the driveway, at the end of the Trek.

### **March 24, 2019—Bachelor Brook Trek (tentative location)**

If the January Trek is canceled for weather, it may be necessary to reschedule that event in March and move this one.

### **April 14, 2019—'Border Buddy' Trek**

Mike Sullivan has suggested Whiting Reservoir in Holyoke as a possible location for a Trek in an adjacent community. A BWC team will explore the area to identify parking options, route length(s) and report back to plan next steps.

### **May, 2019—Valley Bike Share Demo?**

A demonstration event on the Mount Holyoke campus to provide an off-road opportunity for the public to try the bikes and learn how they work was suggested to Mike Sullivan, and Kevin McCaffrey of MHC had indicated this may be possible if there are no legal impediments and/or undue risks for the college. Mariann noted that Mike recently expressed interest in a format that will promote businesses; she will follow up with him to identify possible options. BWC is hopeful that a date might coincide with MA Bike Week in May, but MassBike has not yet announced their dates for 2019.

## **Leaping Well Nature Trail**

Anne Capra reported to Mariann that a drainage pipe near the parking lot entrance was found during construction, necessitating a route to skirt the area, and the area around where the bog bridges start is wet and has marshy mud now that it is not frozen. Construction is done and the four bog 'bridges' are in place, but Anne has some concerns about wet conditions on parts of the trail, which may need to be resurfaced or closed at certain times. BWC members unanimously expressed the desire for the trail not to be closed as this would prove impractical to monitor and impossible to enforce. Mariann will re-connect with Anne to convey this desire, to clarify what might be needed (wood chips?) to better protect/cover the trail as needed and where things stand with the budget.

## **New Business**

Nancy noted that Water District 2 is exploring solar array options on their property near Lithia Springs. How this may impact a possible new trail from the Hiker Parking Lot to DCR's Lithia Springs Reservoir Trail remains to be seen.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm. The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the South Hadley Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucia Foley