



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

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019; 7:00 PM
South Hadley Public Library-Trustees Room**

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

Absent: Margaret Jodoin

Guest: Doris Dubois

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Minutes of January 16, 2019 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

February 2019 meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

Upcoming treks:

- **March 24 / Sunday:** Maple Syrup (Stone Silo Maple Farm) rescheduled from Feb. 24th due to inclement weather. BWC members will bring snacks, drinks and tables. Maurice LaFlamme will do the guided tour of his operation.
- **April 14/ Sunday:** We decided on Bynan Conservation and stopping at Drunken Rabbit post-trek. Mariann will submit Town Reminder (TR) article by April 1st. Bachelor Brook will be considered for a fall trek.
- **May 19 / Sunday:** Community Connections Trek at Ashley Reservoir to include walking and biking. Recon has been scheduled for April 17th at 2pm with April 24th at 2pm as rain date. Parking for both trek & recon at Elks Lodge adjacent to Ashley Reservoir. If Ashley Reservoir does not meet our expectations, we'll use April 24th to check out Whiting Street Reservoir. If both locations don't work out, we'll need to regroup keeping in mind that we have a May 6th TR deadline.
- **Go4Life Stroll-All Ages/All Abilities SeptemberTrek:** Still need to work out logistics of who, where and when. Mariann will contact Leslie Hennessey at Council on Aging (COA).

Leaping Well Nature Trail: BWC was not in favor of closing the trail in the event of wet conditions, including near the bog bridges. Group recommended using wood chips in these areas to mitigate this problem. Anne Capra and Mike Sullivan agreed with our approach. Trail has been cut but due to the location of a drainage pipe, a new entry point was needed. Planned changes to the crescent parking lot will be deferred for now to focus on completing the trail mechanics. Mariann will get a progress report from Anne to hopefully schedule a grand opening sometime in early summer, e.g. June, once the trail is ready to be officially opened. Kiosk has been installed and maps are on order. Once the trail has been opened, our second Scenic Sidewalk Trail will be created and promoted.

River-to-Range Trail Stewardship Plan: Plan has been sent out to BWC members and BWC volunteers should reach out to Anne with their availability. BWC and the Conservation Dept. will work together to recruit resident volunteers to assist with the stewardship plan.

Know Your Town (KYT). Group has planned a Town update that will focus on biking/walking, Canal Park, schools and new senior center. For their April 18th meeting, Mariann will speak about the Leaping Well Nature Trail and has invited Anne Capra to participate with her as a guest speaker. Anne will primarily share her management of the Leaping Well Nature Trail Project and both will briefly touch on BWC & Conservation Dept.'s partnership re: town trails, Anne's management reports and planned volunteer corp.

Water District 2 property (Lots 19 & 20; Rt. 116): On Feb. 23rd, Mariann, Melissa and Margaret attended a meeting to continue discussing access to Lithia Spring Reservoir via Lot 19 and for the Solar Ray Panels for Lot 20. There is still a potential access through District 2 land to the DCR trail for Lithia Springs via creating a trail from the Hiker Parking Lot. Kestrel, DCR and Water District 2 are all in favor of resolving this access issue.

Valley Bike Share (VBS): Nothing new to report. Program is expected to restart on April 1st. Mariann will reach out to Mike Sullivan for a status update.

Open Space & Rec Plan Update: Lucia shared the survey results completed by 237 participants. Lucia to send Mariann the OSRP Committee's goals and objectives. Next community forum meeting will be held March 27th at Town Hall.

Holyoke Bike-Ped Committee: Mariann and Melissa attended the Feb. 4th meeting which included Pete Sutton of MassDOT, Shannon Bliven from Valley Bike Share and various members from Springfield and Northampton. This was a positive networking meeting. Pete Sutton was very pleased to report that River & Stroll has been a MassDOT's success story for closing a street to vehicular traffic. Price Armstrong, Holyoke Bike-Ped Committee Chair, did reach out to Mariann to see if she would consider co-chairing another Roll & Stroll in 2020. No event will take place this year and its future remains uncertain for it occurring again.

Social Strollers: COA group is starting up on April 30th with signups through April.

Trains in the Valley: Lucia attended their initial meeting where study groups are being formed to discuss east/west routes. Their newsletter covers this study, the VT and New Haven lines. Lucia to research if bikes can be taken on these established lines to determine how trains can be used as a transportation method to a local and/or regional bike/walk destination. This could be an avenue for BWC promotion.

Mariann's husband is retiring this summer. For five weeks starting at the end of summer, she'll be out of town working remotely; this will affect the planned trek and BWC meeting in September.

Next Meeting: April 17th and Melissa O'Brien will clerk.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Huguette Supinski