



[www.southhadley.org/bikewalk](http://www.southhadley.org/bikewalk)

## **Bike/Walk Committee Minutes | Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00pm via Zoom**

### **Roll Call**

Andy Rogers, Recreation Director; Jim Buckley, Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley, Jake Woodruff, Ruth Camuse, Caroline Martin, Patrick Trace; Absent: Marilyn Gass

Our newest member was introduced. Pat Tracy, who was interviewed by the Selectboard in February, is an avid walker and glad to be aboard.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Jim made a motion to approve minutes of March 14, 2023, which was seconded by Larry and approved unanimously, with Caroline and Ruth abstaining as they were not at the meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Election of Officers**

Andy reminded everyone that we'll need to elect officers in the new fiscal year, when we'll hopefully have all our membership openings filled.

### **Treks/Events**

#### **▪ April 22, 2023—Bynan Earth Day Trek—Saturday at 1:00pm**

Rebekah Cornell will lead the Trek and Lucia created and distributed a press release with the info provided by Rebekah. Fairway Wholesale, which is near the trail, will let participants park. Danielle will create a FB event, and Larry will send out to our email list. It has also gone to Tina at Town Reminder. Jake, Jim, Lucia, possibly Ruth will plan to be there on April 22. Jim walked the trail today and it was mostly flat. He didn't see much trash, but there are some tires, and the ground would be slippery if it's wet. Larry noted that people do sometimes go in on quads and dump things.

#### **▪ July 13, 2023 (tentative date)—Bike Event—Thursday evening in conjunction with summer concert series**

There are few options on the calendar for a Sunday afternoon event in May. Jake has some ideas for a bike event. He hasn't finalized the route yet, which will be about five miles, as he needs to identify the audience as options may be a bit hilly. Jake is envisioning adults and kids 13+ or so as the route will be on some roads. The event could start and end at Rocky's lot, go out Rt. 33 and then come back on Rt. 116 by Mosier and through MHC, perhaps with a stop maybe at Thirsty Mind. Larry said that Rt. 116 has had some road projects at the intersection of Lyman and Newton, and up to Veryl's. Andy noted that steepest part is probably going up to the college, wondering about other options—perhaps through the campus. Andy could reach out the Kevin McCaffrey and alert the police, and will check with DPW on road work timeline. Andy suggested running the event in conjunction with one of the Thursday night summer concerts, with a stop for the music and Batch ice cream, and announce the event in advance at preceding concerts. Sunset in July is 8:30pm on July 1, 8:20pm on July 22—with twilight it's closer to 9pm before full dark. Lucia can do the route map with some notice, but will be away during the event. Andy will check with Batch on possibilities for ice cream. Jake will work on ride branding. Lucia will make a Word template with artwork from the 'Get Ready to Ride' artwork from the 2022 bike event as a header.

▪ **Joint BWC/Historic Commission Fall Trek—September or October**

Lucia reached out to the Historic Commission about the Master Plan item G14, which calls for development of historic walks around town. The Historic Commission is the Primary Entity, with the Bike/Walk Committee and the Disabilities Commission listed as Sub-entities. Lucia also met with Diane LaRoche to talk about the Firehouse Museum grounds as recently suggested by Rebekah Cornell, as well as community seating, historic walks, and the status of the Falls Neighborhood group.

▪ **Trek Planning**

Andy suggested that members could each do some research to develop ideas for Treks/Rides and identify a timeline for reporting back to the committee. Jim asked if we always must have a theme and Larry noted seasonal constraints, such as the Ledges being available in the winter, but not during golf season. Lucia suggested a tour of the Holyoke G&E sites on our side of the river. Jim made a suggestion to other days as not everyone can be available on a Sunday. Andy suggested a possible tie-in with Black Stevens and youth sports. Caroline can assist in the winter. Everyone was interested in trying an out-of-town Trek at Conte; Andy will research to see if someone from DCR could lead a Trek or come to a meeting to talk about options.

**Summer Fun Run Program**

Andy reported that the 6-week fun run program ('kid treks') for kids up to age 15 will be open to runners old enough to run. Locations will include the River to Range Trail, Black Stevens, and two trails on the Mount Holyoke campus. As Springfield has a program on Wednesdays, the South Hadley program will be held on Thursday evenings, with a \$20 fee. He is hoping for 30-40 kids a week. They will start with kids only and add adults in the future if there is interest.

**Buttery Brook PARC Grant**

Efforts are underway to prepare to apply for a PARC grant for Phase II renovations at BATTERY BROOK PARK, and there is considerable interest in developing accessible trail as part of the project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Upcoming meetings**

On March 24, 2023 the Town was advised that a bill extending the emergency guidelines authorizing remote public meetings until 2025 was passed by the legislature and had reached the Governor's Desk to be signed.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be scheduled at **6:00pm on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at BATTERY BROOK PARK.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Larry, seconded by Jake, and approved by all at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucia Foley, Member

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**Master Plan Tasks**

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)