

# South Hadley Bike-Walk Committee

## Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2021

### Virtual Meeting

*Presented by Recreation Director Andrew Rogers*

**Roll Call:** Committee members: Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass, Chris Bassett. Recreation Director Andy Rogers.

Meeting began at 7:03pm.

Minutes from 2/9/2021 approved as presented. CB/LF. 4-0.

Old Business:

- New member recruitment: AR asked who would like to return for FY2022 as the appointment process will happen in June, and all four members are interested. He noted that the next round of interviews will take place in late June or early July.
- There was a lot of discussion about the various projects by the Woodlawn Plaza, new COA, Rt 33/116 intersection. Some notable points from the discussion:
  - There were many concerns about how these projects sync together, as they are being done independently and this is already a troublesome area for bikers and walkers. AR noted that they got together recently with the Planning Dept, DPW and three architects working on the projects to discuss how they intersect.
  - There was specific focus on crossing Newton Street and how people navigate through the plaza.
  - There was discussion about where this information can be found, and different members will share what they have via email. People should be advocating to the various decision makers about their opinions on what is happening and should attend the public hearings. LF noted there are some Planning Board hearings on April 26.
  - LD noted that the Commission on Disabilities is getting the plans for these projects, and offering input during the process.
  - It was mentioned by LF that Pride has taken out papers for the lot across from the Plains School. There were concerns about another gas station in town and MG noted the proximity to the school; however, AR noted that isn't up for this committee to decide. Our focus is when these projects happen, what can we do to make them more friendly for bikers and walkers. One example would be at this site, can a loop be made so people can avoid the intersection, so which point CB noted it would even link to the Bynan property.
- AR said we got a grant for a forestry program at the Ledges, and part of what we are looking at is connecting the paring lot to the trails in Newton-Carver. It was asked if this could be connected to the adjoining Lozier Farm property, which does not appear to be

an option. He said that the Conservation Commission is looking at doing this in more areas, due to forests that are dying out.

#### New Business:

- The town is investing a PARC grant for BATTERY Brook Park, that would include many of the items listed in Phase #2 of the project and would include ADA improvements, a walking trail and potential fitness station amongst other things. This grant is due in July and would require a town match. AR will keep the group updated as things progress.
- There was good discussion about the Master Plan and items assigned to the Bike-Walk Committee. A few notes:
  - AR said that Anne Capra is looking to add an intern to update many of the maps and create more information for the public. CB offered to help with any of this as he is in these properties frequently.
  - CB/LD mentioned the Leaping Well trail and better access and improved information about it.
  - LD asked about better access to the arboretum at MESMS.
  - It was suggested that various committees try to get together to brainstorm these items and make sure we are working towards common goals.
  - Judy Gooch from the Master Plan Committee will be invited to our next meeting, to see how the Master Plan Committee can work with us and others to make things happen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm. Next meeting scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 7pm.