



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

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019; 7:00 PM  
South Hadley Public Library-Trustees Room**

**Attendees:** Melissa O'Brien, Mariann Millard, Marilyn Gass, Larry Dubois, Nancy Bozek, Margaret Jodoin. Lucia Foley joined near the end of the meeting.

**Absent:** Huguette Supinsky

**Guest:** Doris Dubois

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

Marilyn moved that we accept the April 17, 2019 minutes as presented, motion seconded, minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treks:**

**Community Connections Trek at Ashley Reservoir:** Mariann and Bob Comeau, from Holyoke Bike-Ped Committee, did a walk-through at Ashley Reservoir. Bob will lead the walking group on our May 19 trek while providing commentary and historical information at various locations. Pierce Armstrong will lead the biking group. Bike-Walk members will help Shannon Biven (Valley Bike Share) set up bikes prior to the trek. Holyoke Water Works will not allow dogs, including no emotional support dogs, because the reservoir is an environmentally sensitive area. A wheelchair will be able to access the adjacent wooded trail entrance if the chair is able to pass over small rocks and tree roots.

**September Go4Life Stroll:** Mariann will approach Council on Aging director Leslie Hennessey and Social Service Coordinator Ann Andras about changing our collaborative stroll from September to October 20. Discussion proceeded re: the possibility of partnering with Mount Holyoke College for a September Stroll to see the new additions made in the Project Stream area and include a student talking about the project. Mariann will contact Judy Gouch about this possibility. We would continue the trek around Upper Lake and proceed to Equestrian Hill.

**Town and Community Updates & Events:**

**Michael E Smith Middle School Health Fair:** Marilyn, Melissa and Mariann met with some motivated, excited eighth grade students at the Middle School to discuss the Health Fair. Students will make a tri-fold table display featuring biking and walking for the May 30 event. BWC members are encouraged to attend the event to meet the students and encourage them to be active with family, friends while walking and talking. The class has made plans to walk the Leaping Well Nature Trail prior to the event.

**New Town Website:** South Hadley has a new website. Lucia uploaded BWC information from the old website and along with Mariann has made sure that BWC is up to date as of March 15.

**BWC Member Reappointment:** Members are due for reappointments for the next fiscal year and need to let Mariann know if they are not going to continue as members.

**Master Plan & Open Space Rec Plan Updates:** Lucia arrived from the Master Plan/Open Space & Rec Plan Committee meetings and gave a brief update on the progress, including that people want sidewalks and maintenance of current sidewalks, connectivity, safe biking and walking, senior housing, and affordable housing. For example, Riverboat Village residents want a sidewalk along Alvord St.

**Meetings:** We will meet June 19, July 17, and August 21, but not in September, due to the unavailability of the library meeting room and Mariann being away for that month.

**New Business:** Larry is involved with the South Hadley Community Garden and has been asked to plan some handicap access. Larry will be checking to see if a compacted surface may be approved for handicap access. This could also be a way to have good weather access in some other areas in lieu of paved sidewalks in town.

Nancy noted that there appears to be some confusion from last month's meeting about Shannon Biven's comments on the exact kiosk location of Valley Bike Share in the Woodlawn Plaza area.

Margaret feels there are issues to be addressed in South Hadley concerning connectivity for daily needs. How do disabled or those who cannot drive access food and other shopping needs?

Marilyn will clerk the June 19 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Nancy Bozek*