



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

**Wednesday, July 17, 2019; 7:00 PM  
South Hadley Public Library-Trustees Room**

**Attendees:** Mariann Millard (Chair), Melissa O'Brien, Nancy Bozek, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass, Margaret Jodoin

**Absent:** Larry DuBois

**Guest:** Doris DuBois

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by the Chair.

The June Minutes were approved with one exception for comments made by Larry Dubois during the conversation with Chris Geraghty. The comments will be subsequently clarified by the August meeting. Minutes were then moved and seconded by Nancy Bozek and Melissa O'Brien respectively.

**Guest Speaker:** Leslie Hennessey was not able to attend due to another conflict.

From discussions with Leslie and Anne Capra, Mariann updated the members on the 10/20 Go4Life Stroll plans. Mariann Leslie Hennessey had met and had worked on the 4 Rest Area Activities. Mariann outlined them as follows:

Rest Area 1: Tai Chi or Yoga would be held here (Leslie to coordinate)

Rest Area 2: History of the Connecticut River (returning Leo Labonte; Mariann to coordinate)

The Rest Areas at 3 and 4 were then discussed and ideas presented with BWC members.

Mariann reported that she had spent a lot of time and had made many contacts in hopes of obtaining a Raptor Specialist for one of the Rest Areas; none are currently available.

After much discussion and suggestions from the committee, it was determined that Tom Clark from the MHC Arboretum will be contacted by Marilyn to confirm his availability to discuss local flora at Rest Area 3.

At Rest Area 4 possible providers include Dan Ziomek from the Hadley Garden Center for Bird Calls/Bird Sightings/Bird Information or The Hitchcock Center that would present activities with Box Turtles and Land Snails. Susan Smith, Professor at MHC for possible presentation on Chickadees was also among the activity possibilities. Marilyn and Mariann will coordinate so that contacts can be made and a decision reached on the final provider.

A \$150 maximum budget for obtaining a presenter is available via the Go4Life Stroll grant; Leslie Hennessey will need to seek upfront approval once a presenter has been confirmed.

**Treks:**

9/22 MHC Trek: Both Carey Lang of the Miller-Worley Center at MHC and Kate Ballantine of Restoration Ecology (2016 Project Stream) will be available for a 15-20 minute presentation (Ms. Ballantine is slated to present with Ms. Lang as her back-up). The Trek will begin at the Kendall Sports Center (meeting point) and the Upper Lake Trail will be entered after a walk-through and presentation in the Project Stream area. Publicity will be targeted to SH schools and MHC students (especially new students), along with our regular outreach.

For future treks, the US Fish and Wildlife was suggested for possible future programs.

### **Town and Community Updates & Events:**

Members were encouraged to attend the 7/22 Planning Board Public Hearing at 7:15 PM on the Skinner Woods Condo Project. Mariann reported that she had contacted Jim Menard of Water District 2 because of the District-owned lots 19 and 2 proximity to the project property. Jim was unable to provide any info or status for discussion on a Lithia Springs Reservoir access (from Hiker Parking Lot on Rt. 116) when contacted, other than to state to Mariann that the access project is currently on hold for D2.

Lucia Foley had little to report on the Master Plan and Open Space & Rec. Plan as this appeared to be a time for writing and compiling material for the two reports. There was no recent meeting though two more are planned for the fall. Also no new updates were available on the website.

### **New & Other Business:**

Mariann reported that there are two current BWC member vacancies. She has been in contact with an interested individual (Carol Gillis), but that according to the Select Board there will now be only two times per year that new members to committees would be interviewed/voted on by SB members and that the next period would be in October. It is hoped that Carol will remain interested and that she will be sworn in during the October period. It was suggested that Mariann invite her to the August meeting; Mariann will follow-up.

A notice will be created and posted at the R2R trail as another way that we might attract new members.

### Updates on various trails

It is hoped that the Leaping Well Nature Trail will be officially opened in November by the BWC via a trek ceremony. Various work on the trail is still in progress at this time.

A new and improved wooded trail in the Bachelor Brook Conservation Area (off Route 47) is underway for completion. This trail can be accessed by the R2R Loop Trail or by its small improved parking lot on Rt. 47.

It was expressed that there is a desire to get up to the Texon-Park area and re-introduce it to the community via a BWC trek. There is a narrow time-frame in which it is open (May to September only).

Mariann requested that members interested in attending the Oct/Nov. MA Trails Conference should notify her as she will be making a request to TA Mike Sullivan for funding for attendees.

It was suggested that perhaps Larry Dubois (who will be unable to attend meetings in person for some time as a result of a medical problem) might be able to participate through Skype. Mariann agreed to check with Carlene Hamlin, Town Clerk, regarding this possibility and for any issues to address for Open Meeting Law.

BWC-assistance ideas for Town Health Initiatives (Marilyn) will be taken up at next month's meeting.

The next meeting of the BWC will be held on August 21, 2019, and Lucia Foley will clerk.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Margaret Jodoin*