



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

## **Bike/Walk Committee Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 2023 at 6:00pm, in-person at the Buttery Brook Park Log Cabin**

### **Roll Call**

Andy Rogers, Recreation Director; Anne Barry, Jim Buckley, Ruth Camuse, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass, Caroline Martin, Patrick Tracey, Jake Woodruff

Not present: Larry Dubois

### **Approval of Minutes**

Following the opening of the meeting at 6:07pm, Marilyn made a motion, seconded by Jim, and approved unanimously to approve the August 8, 2023 meeting minutes.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Upcoming Treks**

##### ▪ **September 23, 2023—Black Stevens Trek—Saturday at 10:00am**

Jim Buckley and Pat Tracey will lead a Fall Trek at Black Stevens Conservation Area, with an approximately 1.75 mile/1 hours route that will start and end at the high school. Using Blue and Orange paths, participants will travel uphill on the way to Plains school and go downhill on the return, along the athletic fields. The culvert construction project on Route 116 will still be in progress, so participants may wish to approach the high school from Route 33. Lucia will develop a Trek map with an of overlay route details on the Conservation Area map, do a writeup and create PDF of the map, and post the info on our webpage ([www.southhadley.org/bikewalk](http://www.southhadley.org/bikewalk)).

##### ▪ **October 8, 2023—Historic Falls Trek—Sunday at 10:00am**

Leo LaBonte of the Historic Commission couldn't make tonight's meeting, but has sent some narrative information to Andy, which he will forward to Lucia to create a write-up for the Bike/Walk webpage. The Trek, which will start and end at South Hadley Public Library, will be part of the Showcase South Hadley Town Arts/Culture event (<https://southhadleyarts.org>) planned for Friday-Sunday, October 6-8, 2023. Pat plans to assist with the Trek, a joint effort of the Historic Commission and Bike/Walk to address **Master Plan Goal G14**.

##### ▪ **November 5, 2023—Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook North Loop Trek—Sunday November 7, 2023 at 1:00pm**

Caroline Martin and Anne Barry will lead this Trek, with assistance from Jim, which will cover the less-used North Section of this Conservation Area, and the event will be held on Sunday as there is no in-season hunting on this day. This will be a more difficult hike, with some steeper ascents, but birders should enjoy the abundant wildlife. Jim and Caroline will do a rehearsal Trek. Andy said that some work to clear the trail has been done, but will try to do more and go in to add additional blue trail markers in advance of the Trek. Lucia will develop a Trek map to show parking options and the route, which will start and end at the trailhead on Route 47 and post a writeup and a PDF of the map on the Bike/Walk web page.

##### ▪ **No Treks currently scheduled in December and January**

##### ▪ **February 4, 2024—Ledges Trek—Sunday at 1:00pm**

Date change so event will fall on the open Sunday between football playoff games and the Superbowl.

## Other Projects

### South Hadley Master Trail Map Brochure

Andy shared copies of the new map brochure developed by Rebekah Cornell.

### Community Seating

Marilyn Gass shared a report on existing benches in South Hadley and their locations, noting that there are also two benches in the Veteran's area of the Falls Cemetery. She reported that in Orleans on Cape Cod, the cost for a commemorative bench is \$2500, including installation. A South Hadley commemorative/sponsored bench program would focus on seating on public lands, but we should also consider ideas for providing incentives for new business/private seating.

There was discussion about how benches might be added in the design stage to roadway improvement projects, as was done on King Street in Northampton. It was suggested that the Bike/Walk Committee send a letter to our legislators, Sen. Jake Oliveira and Rep. Dan Carey to see what might be possible with DOT for including some benches in the upcoming Route 116 road project. Anne noted that additional bike racks are also needed.

## NEW BUSINESS

Bewegen, the e-bike provider for Valley Bike Share, which had grown to serve nine towns in the Pioneer Valley, including South Hadley, has gone out of business. Northampton is the lead and has been trying to find a new provider, so far without success.

Andy met with Steve from Fairway Wholesale Distribution on New Ludlow Road, who has offered to donate a 9.3-acre portion of the property to the Town. This would provide room for a parking area at the Bynan Conservation Area trailhead, where Steve envisions a memorial bench honoring his parents.

Officers will be addressed the October meeting. Anne is willing to serve as Vice Chair. Lucia can do tasks such as website updates and notes.

## NEXT MEETING

A motion to adjourn by Jim was seconded by Pat and approved by all at 7:25pm.

The next meeting will be held in-person at **6:00pm on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 via Zoom.**

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)