

Shelburne Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths Committee Agenda

May 18, 2020

Conducted online: Zoom meeting ID: 790 4282 5141 * Password: 501859

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/79042825141?pwd=MG5ia1RIWm5WUVhoQ0dWQS9LS0dkdz09> Call in number: (929) 205-6099* ID: 790 4282 5141 Password: 501859 6:30 PM

Members Present: Kevin Boehmcke, Chair (KB), Ted Grozier (TG), Caroline Weaver (CW), Jeff Zweber (JZ), Joplin James (JJ, joined late)

Guests Present: Jeff Loewer, Neil Berger, Chris Kent, Jane Zenaty, Steven Antinozzi (joined late), Mischa Tourin (joined late)

1. Call to Order

KB calls meeting to order 6:41 pm

2. Admin matters

a) Identify a note taker / Confirm audio/video and address technology questions

- CW identified as notetaker

b) Approve Agenda

- KB motioned to approve the minutes
- JZ seconded motion
- Agenda approved 6:42pm

d) Approve Minutes from February

- TG moved to approve minutes
- JZ seconded motion
- Minutes approved in unanimous vote

e) Membership/vacancy

- KB provided an update on membership vacancy. Kate Lalley has been removed as a member, leaving two vacancies. Mischa Tourin has expressed interest in the vacancy and joined the meeting at 7:00pm

3. Public Comment

- Neil Berger joined to discuss an increase in controversial activity in the Laplatte Nature Park. Neil has noticed that an individual has been building mountain bike trails. Neil has had some conversations with this individual after he noticed more aggressive clearing of trees and vegetation. Neil estimates that approximately 8 trees were removed overnight a few days after the initial in-person conversation. Neil has collaborated with Parks and Rec to place some signage on the trail detailing rules/regulations (approx. "The town of Shelburne prohibits trail building, tree or plant damage. Stay on existing trails"). As of now, biking is permitted on existing trails. The specific conversation around trail cutting activities on town land was postponed until time 5 in the agenda.

4. Coordination with Village Pedestrian Safety Group

a) Report on 3/9/20 meeting with Lee Krohn.

- Jane Zenaty initiated the meeting with Lee Krohn on 3/9/20 to discuss the budget item that had been allocated to the Village Pedestrian Safety Group (\$15,000). TG was left with the impression that Lee views the Village Pedestrian Safety Group and Shelburne Bikes and Paths Committee as the same group (from a budget standpoint). Both Jane and KB advocated for the two groups to be funded separately and operate separately, but suggests that the two groups should work strategically to coordinate efforts wherever possible.

b) AARP grant

- KG provided an update. A decision was made to pass on this grant. There is an opportunity to apply for this grant in future years. Group should plan to revisit this conversation in late fall 2020 and then again in January 2021 to prepare to apply for the grant with enough advanced notice.

5) Trail Issues

a) Development of trail marker

- JZ volunteered to research what would be required if we were to add signage to trails around Shelburne. He plans to reach out to Lee Krohn. The plan would be to mark trails, but also provide guidance and rules for trail use. DP reminded the group that there are “multiple cooks in the kitchen” when it comes to trails and signage. Natural Resources Committee, the Rec Department, Paths Committee.

b) Trail cutting activities on Town Land

- JJ has also observed some unauthorized activity on the east side of the Laplatte trails. This activity has impacted some private landowners.
- CW raised a hope that future signage can delineate between public trails and private trails where landowners are permitting people to pass through. TG and JZ agreed. Mischa shared that he has worked for multiple seasons with the Youth Conservation Corps and has experience building trails and leading trail crews.
- Neil asked if the town could provide more support in addressing the unauthorized trails being built in Laplatte. DP suggested he attend the Natural Resources committee meeting on 5/19 to make them aware of the issue. The group agreed that there should be town support for abiding by trail rules, but hope we can channel the energy of this individual into future, sanctioned trail projects.

6) Updates

a) Committee/member initiatives South Burlington Pennies For Paths

- KB provided a summary of the “Pennies for Paths” program. This is an initiative in South Burlington that has been very successful. Serves as an additional tax on your property tax bill - a very small percentage of your property value. Initiative would need to be put to vote. KB is going to have a representative from Local Motion to provide more details. DP estimates that a penny on the tax rate would allocate ~\$120k in a year. This would require significant lobbying to the selectboard and town. The group would likely need to view this as a long term challenge/effort.

b) Irish Hill Road sidewalk and bridge project

- DP provided a summary. Some of the work was impacted by the Stay Home, Stay Safe order from the Governor. Overall the project is slightly delayed. Some budget items have impacted design choices (likely using asphalt as opposed to concrete).

7. Other Business

a) Laplatte bridge crossing update

- JJ provided an update. The engineer inspected the bridge in April. JJ is waiting on the report, but is not expecting any major adjustments. There has been some significant erosion this spring. JJ continues to plant willows and implement other natural erosion mitigation techniques.

b) Election of the chair

- JZ moves to approve TG as Chair of the Bike and Paths Committee. CW seconded the motion. The motion passes with no opposition.

8. Confirm next meeting date

- Next meeting June 15, 6:30pm

9. Adjourn

- KB motions to adjourn the meeting. CW seconds. Meeting adjourned 8:35pm.