

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Shelburne Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths Committee**  
**May 20, 2019**  
**Shelburne Town Offices**  
**6:30 PM**

**Attendees:**

Members. Kevin Boehmcke (chair), Joplin James, Jeff Zweber, Ted Grozier, and Hazel Civalier (student member),

Public. Steve Antinozzi (former member of BPPC), Tom Zenaty (Village Ped Safety Group), Dave King

Staff. Dean Pierce

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Kevin Boehmcke at 6:33.

**Note taker identification:** Dean Pierce offered to prepare meeting notes.

**Introductions:** Kevin Boehmcke recognized Ted Grozier, who is the newest member of the BPPC. A round of introductions followed.

**Approval of Agenda:** Joplin James moved approval of the Agenda, with Ted Grozier seconding. The agenda was approved by consent.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dean Pierce noted the draft minutes identify Steve Antinozzi as a member. It was agreed he should be identified as a member of the public. Joplin James moved approval of the minutes as revised. Hazel Civalier seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public comment:** Kevin Boehmcke noted that Wendy Saville officially resigned from the BPPC. Steve Antinozzi announced that Mike Ashoo is running late but is expected.

**Updates regarding Committee member initiatives:**

Bike share. Kevin Boehmcke mentioned he had spoken with Caroline Weaver about this topic. He noted we are in a 'wait and see' mode while certain ideas are tested out in the Burlington area.

Village safety group. Tom Zenaty reported on his group's work and cited the priority the groups is giving to the following: line striping; addressing pedestrian safety concerns on 'upper' Falls Road; completion of second cemetery crosswalk; and installation of the green strip along the side of Falls Road (near the pump station). Later he noted the group's interest in pursuing class 1 designation for the portion of Route 7 in Shelburne village. Tom also took the opportunity to comment on the recent Selectboard retreat and the upcoming VSG meeting. Some frustration was expressed regarding the slow or delayed implementation of certain improvements.

Willow planting. Joplin James reported that roughly 200 donated willow cuttings have been planted above the river bank in the vicinity of the suspension bridge in the Laplatte Nature Park. Some of the willows have been set aside for planting on the bank itself after water levels go down. There are signs of beaver activity in the area. Beavers are not expected to pose a threat to the willows once the cuttings take root and become established. Joplin also reported that the annual inspection of the suspension bridge will take place soon. This was followed by a brief discussion of the future management of the bridge.

Fogline striping. Kevin Boehmcke mentioned he had spoken with Wendy Saville about this topic before she resigned. Wendy had not received a specific response to her inquiry regarding which Town roads would be striped this year and when. Dean Pierce added that he had informed Wendy it might be a good time to ask again (would be fourth time). This is because of certain comments Paul Goodrich had made during a Department head meeting. The comments suggest he might now have a clearer plan for fogline striping. Tom Zenaty urged the BPPC to cite the safety benefits of narrower lanes if it pushes for the implementation of striping.

Student volunteers. There was a brief discussion of potential opportunities for students to assist with trail maintenance in Shelburne. Discussion evolved to include trail maintenance, the need for management of invasive species, and volunteer coordination. Dean Pierce mentioned the ongoing effort (spearheaded by officials in South Burlington) to create a regional conservation group. Dean noted that one role such an organization might fill relates to removal of invasives.

### **New topics:**

Dave King trail improvement proposal. Resident Dave King presented his ideas for installation of puncheons in the floodplain area west of the suspension bridge. Recent (and not so recent) flooding makes clear the need for trail improvements, as the trail has become braided as people seek stable footing. As noted elsewhere on the agenda, it is coincidentally the recommendation of the Shelburne Natural Resources Committee (SNRCC) that puncheons be constructed in this area.

Dave indicated that officials in the Agency of Natural Resources (who were consulted because the area is a Class 1 wetland as well as flood area) are opposed to filling of any kind. Dean Pierce explained that filling is not allowed under the Vermont Wetland Rules. Joplin James added that a cost estimate (for materials only) has been obtained from a lumber yard in Hinesburg. The amount of the estimate is \$770, which would provide enough material to construct approximately 100 yards of puncheon.

There was a brief discussion of alternative construction techniques. Joplin explained that his approach has been to 'keep it simple' and pursue a low cost solution that could be implemented in a weekend or two. He will keep moving forward with the idea.

Before discussion concluded, Dean reminded those in attendance to seek 'sign off' for the work from Town officials (Town Manager) and gain input from the SNRCC, which prepared the management plan for the Nature Park.

SNRCC recommendations regarding puncheons. [Agenda item merged with discussion relating to Dave King's proposal.]

Updating of public works specifications. Dean Pierce noted that the Town's new Comprehensive Plan calls for updating of the Public Works specifications to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. As it so happens, certain public works staff are beginning the process of updating of the specifications. This effort provides an opportunity for Committee members and others to see that the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan are implemented.

### **Committee Membership:**

The group again recognized the opening created by Wendy Saville's resignation. In addition, Hazel Civalier announced that she would end her service in August owing to school demands. Hazel was thanked for her involvement.

### **Other business:**

#### Update on Selectboard retreat

Jeff Zweber noted the breadth of the discussion that occurred at the retreat, mentioning the Board's interest in addressing safety concerns and the emphasis being placed on the new Comprehensive Plan.

Steve Antinozzi also noted with approval the Selectboard's interest in improving safety of circulation facilities, particularly in the village area. He added that he had encouraged the Board to consider the needs of non motorized travelers when making all "once every 100 year investments," such as the Bay Road bridge. He explained that failing to consider those needs could mean users could lose access to an entire transportation corridor.

Steve went on to mention congestion on arterial routes, the need for separate infrastructure for bicyclists/pedestrians, and the importance of completing the Irish Hill road project.

Tom Zenaty also commented on the Selectboard's discussion relating to the Comprehensive Plan. He called attention to the Board's apparent interest in completing a "statement" project that could stand as a model for other projects in the town.

Focusing on one aspect of the Comprehensive Plan discussion, Dean Pierce mentioned the possible creation of a Plan implementation table. There could be a role for committees in the development or refinement of such a table.

As discussion wound down, Steve Antinozzi responded to a remark made by the Town Manager at the retreat. The Manager expressed the view that upper Falls Road is the safest road in Shelburne. Steve disagreed with that assessment.

**Next meeting:**

Kevin Boehmcke noted that he hopes prioritization of project ideas can be a major focus of the next meeting agenda. The group then engaged in a brief exercise 'cleaning up' the project list prepared in 2016 (e.g., completed projects were struck from the list). Kevin indicated he will transfer the results of the exercise to a Google survey. The survey will allow members to rank/prioritize project ideas. The next meeting will take place on June 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm.

**Adjournment:**

Hazel Civalier moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jeff Zweber seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 8:30 pm.