

Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Ad-hoc Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2018

In Attendance: Melissa Gahr (Committee member, Co-chair), Bettina K (Committee member, Co-chair-left at 9:35am), Pamela Hollash (Committee member, community), Andrea Benson (Committee member, community), Jameson Paine (Committee member, Planning Board-arrived 8:40am)

Call to order at 8:35 a.m. by Melissa Gahr.

Motion to approve minutes by BK, seconded by AMB, unanimous decision to accept minutes of 03/23/18 as drafted.

Committee representative to the master plan steering committee

Discussed multiple members have interest, questioning time commitment involved. Understand the consulting group will be the leader/organizer of these meetings. ***Group agreed that PH will be the representative for the PCAC committee with AB as first alternate. Additional PCAC committee members will try to attend whenever possible.***

Discussed connection between master plan with planning board practices & procedures with regard to viewing new/future applications for development. The group feels this is an important issue for the future, to expand radius of review beyond the direct abutters & exit/entrance intersection. Explanation and discussion was given with regard to statutes (RSA36:54-58) where there is a potential to involve the Rockingham Planning Commission to help work with and notify neighboring communities when development could cause a regional impact.

Confirm monthly meeting schedule

Currently the minutes reflect the group meets the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm and the 4th Friday at 8:30am monthly. Group reiterated this schedule will be maintained. The website needs to be updated to reflect this properly. ***JP motioned and PH seconded, unanimously decided to cancel the 4th Friday in April's scheduled meeting date of April 27th.*** In future, each agenda will include a confirmation of the next meeting date.

SRTS update

MG & BK will coordinate so the SRTS online survey link can be distributed to CMS & SMS at the same time. Yesterday the Task Force met with TEC and look to move forward with them dependent on the grant approval timeline. They want to hold a June 5th community presentation & conversation. TEC also discussed Seabrook example. With the Safe Routes program they involved walk pathway policies in new developments a number of years ago and now that more development has occurred the vision coming to fruition. Discussion of "complete street" concept and how it changes the design process to look at bikers, pedestrians and vehicles in a holistic way of transportation. Many new grant programs are requiring this planning concept in order to participate. "Complete Street" planning could be something to keep on the radar to position the Town better for future grant applications.

Town Center Development by Persimmon Group

Discussion on the new buildings as proposed to the Planning Board. Group believes the continued growth/development of this area needs to be consistent with the Town Center as created. ***Motion by BK, seconded by AMB and unanimously approved that the group will write a letter to express the support of the PCAC for the Planning Board continuing to encourage the developer to conform to the Town Center master plan and zoning regulations.*** AB will work with the Co-Chairs to draft a letter before the next Planning Board meeting. Believed to have this project scheduled on the April 4th Planning Board agenda.

Nordic walking group research/investigation

BK proposed the PCAC members arrange a social outing with an expert in York to get more knowledge. She will look into it further and work with Seth & Parks/Recreation Dept.

Inclusion of pedestrian/cyclist safety & connectivity

~Looking ahead, plan to be pro-active on working with the Highway Dept in the development of next year's striping budget (need to look at Aug/Sept to discuss with Colin Lavery the costs and the process of drafting the 2019 Budget proposal). Thinking to look at school-related priorities first from the Safe Routes to School process and then hopefully create a schedule of priorities from there with him.

~With regard to remaining aware of the NHDOT's plans for re-working/re-striping-planning to work with Tim Roache & Rockingham Planning Center to obtain further information on grants and NHDOT bike routes planning initiatives. MG will follow up.

Continued work re: master trails map (paper & electronic versions)

~Connecting Stevens Park to the Municipal Center: looked at maps and discussed the Sanderson easement from 2003 to look at more closely with the Conservation Commission & Tavis Austin. PH & AB to follow up and bring back to the next PCAC meeting.

~Area near the formerly proposed Sullivan development may allow for a connectivity corridor which could be relevant to the Safe Routes to School efforts to support safe biking & walking to Stratham Memorial School.

~Quick view on connecting High St. to Union--some potential open space parcels that could be useful in the future.

Public comment

None.

The next meeting of the PCAC will be 6:30pm on April 10, 2018 in the Municipal Center's Hutton Room.

There being no further items to discuss, AB made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10am which was seconded by PH and unanimously agreed upon by the Committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Benson, Secretary