

FINAL

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, May 7, 2019
CITY HALL, WEST MEETING ROOM
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Smith (Chair); John Kelleher (Vice-Chair); Erling Heistad (City Council); Alan Schnur; Marie McCormick; Sarah Akhtar; Clifton Below (Alt)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Megan Chapman; Kenneth Warren (Friends of Northern Rail Trail); Shane Smith (Alt. Council Representative)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: Citizen Alex Belenz

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 2, 2019

All instances, delete “Crysl” from Sarah Akhtar’s name; move Megan Chapman to “present”; Page 1, line 12 change to “approved (7-0-1)”; line 32, change to “Moved by Megan Chapman”; Page 2, line 4, change to “Passed (8-0); line 47 to read, “Ms. McCormick led discussion of the complete...”

MOVED by Erling Heistad to approve the April 2, 2019 Minutes as amended. Seconded by Marie McCormick.

**The MOTION was approved (5-0). John Kelleher and Clifton Below were not present for the motion.*

3) STUDY ITEMS:

A. Updates from Other Boards:

- 1. Planning Office** - Rebecca Owens updated the members on the Downtown Tunnel Project by displaying a rendering of the project with layouts and traffic patterns. Ms. Owens shared a number of observations and explained the major features. The next step will be a finalizing of the plan on. Ms. Owens will provide an agenda link to the full document. Any comments or recommendations are to be directed to the City Engineer.
- 2. Safe Routes to School** – Rebecca described the walk to school activities taking place at Lebanon Elementary Schools.
- 3. City Council** – Erling Heistad reported that the Council discussed airport snow removal, grants for Headrest and River Valley, the Landfill Gas Project, and fees for water and sewer. There was nothing relevant to Ped/Bike issues.
- 4. Planning Board** – Rebecca Owens shared that she was at the Planning Board meeting when Karen Zook said she would like to be represented.
- 5. Class VI Roads** – Colin Smith – nothing to report
- 6. Police Reports** – Alan Schnur – There were no crashes involving pedestrians or bicyclists in March. Mr. Schnur asked for the data from 2018. Ms. Owens stated that the fatality by the school

is a legal process in court right now and a complicated situation. Mr. Schnur said it would be good to see if a similar situation could be avoided in the future.

7. **Mascoma River Greenway** – Colin Smith – Ms. Owens stated that there would be a “Wild About Lebanon” event this Saturday.
8. **Rails to Trails** – Ken Warren – not present

- B. Pedestrian/Bicyclist Plan** – Rebecca Owens stated that it is part of the committee’s work to create a Ped/Bike plan. It can show all of the features, but it is desirable to delineate improvements and new features needed, such as where markings should go. Once the optimal routes are identified, a report is usually done by an outside consultant using statistics based on routes and density. It is based on safe routes to school, the Master Plan, the greenway extension routes, and input from the community as to what they want. At both the state and local level, they can identify levels of stress within certain routes.

Alex Belenzs introduced himself, stating that he is a resident and has been here for 3 ½ years as a transportation planner. He was there to see what this committee is doing.

Ms. Owens shared more detail of recent discussion regarding a Ped/Bike plan. Sometimes there can be a combined plan for ped/bike and other types of routes. The regional transportation plan will make considerations for ped/bike features. There are references in other documents that mention referring to a formal ped/bike plan for guidelines. A plan would focus on day-to-day needs and be based on socio-economics and safety. It would provide a list of ready projects for the future. The plan would be scored.

John Kelleher arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Ms. Owens added that they would take all transportation types into account when making recommendations for best routes and features for bikeway selection, which would factor into CIP planning along with the Miracle Mile project. There would be a budget for different phases of the plan. Hanover has a plan. The plan developed by Northampton, MA is a good plan to look at in addition to the ALTA Planning Group, which is doing the state plan.

Ms. Akhtar suggested approaching Thayer for a collaboration on the plan. With limited dollars in the budget, the young people would be motivated for finding better routes with the impact on their lives. Ms. Owens said the students were a great resource on the Greenway project. She spoke with Hanover’s Ped/Bike Chair Bill Young, who asked the same question. It can be challenging, and Councilor Heistad noted that there can be a continuity issue when team members change every nine weeks.

Chair Smith asked what they would need to do to begin the process. Ms. Owens suggested they make a request that the Planning Department work on a proposal to initiate the development of a Ped/Bike Plan and to consider it for inclusion in the current budget cycle. A motion is not necessary at this time.

Ms. Owens stated there are resources available to help with design. Having a conceptual design based on available data would expedite future projects. There would be a cost involved in developing a plan. The committee could work on formalizing the options to test with the public, and the members could share examples they find. They could make a matrix of the possible options.

C. Development Regulation Review – Rebecca Owens – In addition to the Tunnel Design Project, the City is about to implement items from the Downtown Vision Plan, which were in the Planning Board packet on April 22. The Planning Department has been working with Goody Clancy to make proposed zoning amendments for site planning, architectural quality, and parking and circulation. Ms. Owens sent a link to the new version. The primary goal is to increase walkability and street level interest. Ms. Owens explained the major points of the changes and recommendations related to things like parking behind buildings. There has been a lot of public input, and they want to make these changes throughout the community. Councilor Heistad noted that Hopkins Center had problems with interaction between outside and inside. Ms. Owens said it would be on the primary streets, with a hierarchy of types of streets. They are trying to make it less vehicle centered, and there may eventually be a parking garage downtown. They worked with a consultant, and the April 22nd version is the consolidation of many drafts. It is still evolving, and is referred to as Design Guidelines. There are different preferences and requirements for West Lebanon versus downtown Lebanon. Ms. Owens will resend the link to the latest version, which will continue to be revised.

Clifton Below arrived at 8:11 p.m.

Alan Schnur commented on lighting, which if it is too low can obscure potential dangers. Ms. Owens noted that having a good lighting designer makes all the difference.

4) OTHER BUSINESS:

1. **Education/Encouragement: Bike Rodeo, Curb the Car Day** – a link was shared to the related posters. [Ped bike item 4 bike Rodeo-Curb The Car.Pdf](#) Volunteers are needed. There are new features this year, and they are discussing more involvement for West Lebanon folks. They are getting bikes and contributions for items. Curb the Car Day will provide tune-ups, and electric bikes will be on display. Mr. Kelleher expressed his interest in being involved. Ms. Akhtar asked about publicity. Ms. Owens stated that Vital Communities is publicizing the overall event. The List-Servs are a good resource. Ms. Akhtar suggested people could submit pictures from the day to the Valley News.
2. **Lebanon-Hanover Coordination for DHMC Projects – Colin Smith** – Chair Smith, David Brooks, and Rebecca Owens met at DHMC with David Steiger, Rob Houseman, Zac Conway, and Bill Young regarding the addition of a new tower on the DHMC campus and improved ped/bike access. They also discussed access from Buck Road to complete the connection to Medical Center Drive and new area development. Among those were the DHMC campus to Centerra, the increased development on Mt. Support Road, and the Route 120/Alteria commercial and housing projects. Sachem Village is also expanding. The session was for general information sharing regarding gaps in access and increased use. Ms. Owens detailed a number of housing projects.
3. **TAP Project Updates: Lahaye Path 2016 and 2018 Debrief** – Ms. Owens shared that the Miracle Mile project is back in the State's court. Mr. Schnur noted the proposed crosswalk at Listen, which won't likely happen for at least a year. Ownership regarding streetlight was in question. Ms. Owens looked into flashing beacons for a solar mid-block crossing. Mr. Below suggested it could be on the Council agenda to consider a temporary solution. Ms. Owens stated that she attended a safety workshop at the DOT, which provided good information. The crossing at Listen requires a more formal plan. Several interventions were discussed. Chair Smith asked about getting it on the Council agenda. Councilor Heistad said that would be best. Mr. Kelleher mentioned the motion passed at the previous meeting. Ms. Owens said it would not be necessary to do that again. There is already a proposal with background work done. Mr. Below asked about

a possible temporary crosswalk with bollards and striping tape. Several possibilities and issues were discussed.

4. **Streetlight Conversion Project** – Alan Schnur attended the streetlight meeting. There are different categories of streets and the spacing of lights. Mr. Schnur expressed concern regarding adequate lighting of sidewalks and the impact on foot traffic. Councilor Heistad explained that the project had been in the planning stages for five years, and all poles had been marked if they slated for removal. Mr. Below covered the types of streets in the Streetlight Plan and noted that the LED bulbs throw more light sideways along sidewalks than the current high pressure sodium bulbs. There was a general discussion of removing streetlights and potential problems. The deadline for comments is June 9. There are area meetings for community input. Ms. Akhtar noted there may be more multi-family housing in the future, which would benefit from better lighting. Mr. Below stated that the Master Plan called for more efficient and better lighting without redundant and less effective lighting. The LED conversion will provide better coverage to allow removal of high pressure sodium lighting, which is placed close together. Ms. McCormick suggested that streetlight maps could be available at the Farmer’s Market.

5. **Communications: VNews, reflective souvenirs, social media - Tabled**

6. **“Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian” Recap - Tabled**

5) **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. **Bikeway Selection Workshop**
2. **Friends of the NRT/long-term maintenance and coordination**
3. **Bikeshare Programs**
4. **E-Bikes**
5. **Bike Rack Requirements and Mall Location**

- 6) **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** No public comments

5) **ADJOURNMENT:**

***MOVED by Marie McCormack to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Seconded by Erling Heistad.
* The MOTION passed (7-0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Howes, Recording Secretary