

## Shelburne Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths Committee Minutes

Aug 21st, 2023

### 1. Optional 5:30pm Discussion

Bay Road Options – Discussion on 8/21/23 with Greg Edwards, Barb Johnson, Charlie Jones, Aaron DeNamur, and Nicole Carpenter

Users:

- Walkers from Park to Farms
- SAC Races
- Tourists
- Some bikers

Options:

- 7 shoulder expansion – 5 foot paved ( 1 foot visual/physical delineator) + 2 foot gravel shoulder
  - \$250,000 – estimate from Paul Goodrich
- 11 shoulder expansion – 8 foot wide path (stonedust or paved) + 3 foot barrier (gravel or grass)
  - \$400,000 if scale current estimate
  - \$1,000,000 if use VT State estimate for total costs (includes some project management and engineering time
  - Realistically probably in between above numbers – maybe \$600,000 – could chat with Paul to get a better idea.

Considerations:

- Visually delineation
- Construction
- Timeline
- Maintenance

Questions:

- Where are the telephone poles – how far from the current shoulder? Theoretically this wouldn't impact costs so much – as the utilities are responsible to move them.
- No outreach has been done to the neighbors yet – Should we outreach to them to inform them of the plans to minimize any backlash as construction approaches?
- Which finished surface (stonedust or pavement) is better? Paved surface may be easier to maintain.

Current Approach:

- Include Shared Use Path in the proposal to the Selectboard and go from there.

### 2. 6:30pm Call to Order

Members present: Nicole, Barb, Doug, Jane, Joplin, Charlie, Kevin, Greg

Also present: Aaron DeNamur, Matt Lawless

### 3. Administration

- a) Appoint a notetaker - Barb
- a) Approve agenda - approved
- a) Approve minutes from prior month – approved

2. Public comment – none

3. Strategic Plan Update – Charlie.

- Charlie presented the 7<sup>th</sup> version of the strategic plan. Input has been received from the community, from the towns of Hinesburg and Charlotte, and from CCRPC. The plan was benchmarked against towns in Colorado and Winooski.
- Charlie pointed out the disclaimer for maps which notifies readers that the most updated maps can be found via a web link.
- The plan is to present this to the selectboard on Sept 26
- There will be a yearly review.
- The vision statement is more comprehensive than it's been in the past.
- All items in the plan are already in the town's 2019 comprehensive plan.
- There was some discussion about how to represent proposed trail systems especially if those trails cross private property. A layer has been added to designate desired trails on map 9, which can be updated to include more projects. In order to add a desired trail to the map we need to define what kind of trail we desire and where it would start and end.

**A motion was made to approve the strategic plan August draft with current BPPC priorities and project list added. Motion passed.**

4. Project prioritization – review and confirm the top priorities

Nicole reviewed the draft presentation for the selectboard with priorities through 2028. PPT and spreadsheet will be shared with members so they can provide feedback.

5. Capital Project Planning with Matt Lawless

- a) Matt noted the advantage that bike and pedestrian infrastructure is less expensive than building highways, and that he supports the town's focus on non-motorized travel.
- b) Also noted is that the town does have capital assets and space in the debt service which is currently at 8% and can go to 10%.
- c) The wastewater treatment plant consolidation will be funded with increased sewer fees, not a general fund tax increase.
- d) Capital plan should look ahead 5 years.
- e) Also to be considered is the operational capacity to implement projects. The town currently does not have a staff engineer or a procurement officer, and maintenance staff may be inadequate.
- f) The plan will be re-evaluated every year.
- g) The operating budget is different from the capital budget.
- h) The BPPC could help by investigating sources of funds i.e. grants or donations.
- i) It might also be helpful to include the rationale for highest priority items with references to our vision and goals.
- j) Consider committee overlap for justification of projects.
- k) Consider concerns about future maintenance costs.

**A motion was made: Collectively, Nicole's lists are the top priorities for the committee – motion passed.**

6. Spear St Demo project review – flyers were distributed to members so that they can be posted around town. Demo is scheduled for Sept 1-11 with setup on August 30 and 31.

## 7. Trail Maintenance

- Inspection report for suspension bridge – minor things that need to be addressed. The report was sent to Betsy and Matt.
- Trail maintenance is currently being performed only by volunteers and materials are being donated. The recreation department is not doing any trail maintenance. Joplin suggests we need to discuss this situation further to determine how to keep the trail system maintained.
- A bridge on the trail near Farmstead needs maintenance.
- Need to consider how to move the portion of the trail beyond the Shelburne Falls. The current trail is often wet and overgrown.