

Shelburne Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths Committee (BPPC) Meeting Notes September 19, 2022

Notetaker: Susan Grasso

Attendees: Ted G., Thomas, Joplin, Kevin, Nicole, Jane P.

Missing: Andrew, Jessica, Charlie

Guests: Barb, Jane Z., Susan

Public Comment

Susan introduced her new position as Complete Streets Program Associate at Local Motion. She reviewed the services that Local Motion provides to both formal and informal walk bike committees across the state. She also shared a SRTS opportunity for SCS that provides them with 29 free bike helmets if they agree to conduct a 2-day travel tally at the school. She and Thomas will work together to try to accomplish this.

Announcements

Jessica has a conflict for the fall term, and is interested in taking a leave of absence. Ted is exploring this with Lee.

June Minutes

Jane P. asked to have the spelling of her last name corrected in the June minutes. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

Updates

Subcommittee to Brainstorm Bike Support Ideas (Nicole)

This group was formed to identify potential projects that will be of interest or helpful to people who ride in Shelburne. Potential ideas include providing more bike racks or offering group rides. The subcommittee is planning to meet in October.

Maps Team (Kevin and Susan)

The Maps Team is a joint subcommittee between the BPPC and the VPSG (Barb, Kevin, Andrew, Charlie, Susan and Pam Brangan of the CCRPC). They are working on a “Treasured Places Map” of Shelburne that will show how destinations in Shelburne are connected by roads, and pedestrian and bike infrastructure.

The map will identify “low stress” route segments (i.e., comfortable for all ages and all abilities) building on CCRPC’s level of traffic stress analysis in Chittenden County (in preparation) to provide a visual representation of how easy (or not) it is for people to ride to the places they want to go in Shelburne.

This map can be used to create a tourist/new resident/new rider map. It can also be used for planning purposes to help the BPPC/town close gaps in its walking network and in its low stress

bicycle network. At this time, the team has finalized the existing conditions GIS layer, and is working on a draft of the “treasured places” layer. The “stress level” layer will be completed last. The team may share a draft of the existing conditions and treasured places layers with BPPC in October for comment.

Off-Road Paths (Joplin)

Shelburne has ten “trail adopters” who keep an eye on trails at various points around town. They report no major concerns at this time, beyond some minor maintenance issues. Town staff delivered four piles of gravel that were spread by various volunteers. Town staff helped in this effort. Joplin urged members to check out the great new steps leading to the Mill River and Bumblebee Brook. This project was carried out by a new resident of Mill River Lane.

The annual inspection report from the bridge has been received. It is very detailed and it identifies some minor maintenance issues such as boards that will need to be replaced in the next year or so, but no major concerns.

Regarding the formal naming of Bumblebee Brook, the State of VT has a new librarian who got back to Joplin about naming this stream that enters the Laplatte. Unfortunately, the 25 signatures they were given are invalid because they are digital. He now needs to collect 25 original signatures and return those to the state office. Joplin passed around the form for us to sign.

A student Eagle Scout completed constructing a bridge near the Allen Hill Trail using funds raised via GoFundMe. Thomas says the bridge is on the Cark trail and that this area does get very muddy, so this will be very helpful.

Andrew said he is still waiting for an update from Chris Snyder on the Kwiniaska Ridge to Boulder Hill trail. They appear to be planning to add some screening trees, and are still refining the location of the trail so as to move it further away from homes.

Andrew and Joplin added gravel to the end of Hawley to connect Longmeadow to Boulder Hill. Nicole has some wood that she can offer to make steps in this area. She will plan to do this on the first Saturday of October.

Local Walks

Ted thanked Jane P. for organizing the walks this summer. Ted took some people to walk Shelburne Pond. Nicole led a walk at the Zen Center with four people. She also led a walk from Pierson to Longmeadow. Nicole offered to lead more. She also added the Zen Center walk to the guide book.

Connectivity Study

Ted summarized the status of the Connectivity Study, observing that despite its faults it has served to raise awareness of bike/ped issues in town.

There was some discussion about what the Selectboard actually charged as next steps. Jane Z. talked to Mike and Cate at Shelburne Day. Both are very enthusiastic about seeing something happen. Matt is also very interested in seeing something happen. Ted noted that he thinks Mike is looking for a build out list, including time frame.

The group (and VPSG representatives) ultimately agreed that they should provide the Selectboard with their top 3 project choices for short term action, medium term action and long term action using the projects listed in the Connectivity Study. Ted proposed having each BPPC member send Ted their top three choices in each of these time frame categories. He will assign 5 points to every first ranked project; 3 points to every second ranked project and 1 point to every third ranked project. He recognizes that the Connectivity Study did not provide estimated timelines for the projects but hopes that there will be strong agreement on the top three near term projects, which he thinks should be the priority.

Several members pointed out that many projects of interest to the BPPC had not been included in the study. These were:

1. Bike/Pedestrian Bridge across the LaPlatte at Route 7
2. Bike lanes on Spear Street
3. Improving the safety of the Webster Shared Use Path as it transitions to Rt 7
4. Trail crossing at Bay Road Traffic Calming (speed table?)
5. Clean up train crossing on Harbor Rd to facilitate bike/ped passage
6. Northern Route from Hullcrest to Spear St
7. Country Store and Pedestrian Circulation in Vicinity (short term quick build)

These will be added to the list of projects that members should rank.

BPPC and VPSG decided that they will try to identify a joint set of priorities to present to the Selectboard. VPSG meets later this week. Ted and Jane Z. will discuss priorities after the VPSG meeting. They will then consult with their members by email as needed until the priorities are sorted out. Their goal is to respond to the Selectboard as quickly as possible.

Susan suggested that they identify a project that can be completed during the current budget year, as we have done nothing this year. Susan also suggested that BPPC members be asked to identify an ARPA project to advocate for.

Next Agenda

Subcommittee to Brainstorm Bike Support Ideas (Nicole)
Treasured Places Map (Kevin and Andrew)
Trails Update (Joplin)
SRTS Travel Talley Project (Thomas and Susan)
Status of Connectivity Study Prioritization and Next Steps