Minutes, Montpelier Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting – January 22, 2015, 8 – 9am, Police Dept.

Attending: Sasha Bianchi, Savannah Riddle, Per Tonn, Hannah Reckhow, Anthony Mennona, Bill Merrylees. Meeting began at 9:03.

1. Addition to agenda: Per requested we discuss parklet bike rack inquiry.

Morgan Easto**n,** a student at VT technical college is working on redesign of the yellow parklet to be installed on Main Street in the open lot next to splash. She wanted input on this. We discussed the proposal brought forth by Paul Carnahan of the Montpelier Alive Design committee over a year ago- that of a covered bike rack on the north side of city hall. Per will put Morgan in touch with Ashley Witzenberger of Montpelier Alive, since they are the lead entity on both proposals. We can easily comment on bike specific design further along in the process.

2. Review of goals & actions from 9/13, and New work plan / processes for the year

We began a discussion on this, but without a quorum, no decisions were made. Members commented on the continued relevance of our goals and actions from the 9/13/13 document.

Desired outcome 1: There are a range of well-marked bike routes and trails around the city and beyond.

Action 1.1- Establish and publicize a two-way feedback system and clear timetables to address maintenance needs; 1.2- Solicit input from the public concerning bike policy, plans and infrastructure.

Both were considered by all present to be relevant. Bill reported that Local Motion's new contract with VTrans calls for them to undertake action 1.1, either statewide or in selected towns. He will have clarity on this by next month.

Action 1.3: Committee will be closely involved in the writing and implementation of the Bike Master Plan.

Absolutely relevant. There was a long conversation about how our tasks will change when we move into the implementation phase of the plan in March. Assuming the plan is approved by city council, our tasks may include:

- Working closely with Public Works on bike-related project details.
- Examine 5 year paving plan and identify where bike priorities coincide with planned repaves. This is low hanging fruit, and the least expensive way to add pavement markings and signage.
- The CIP Budget for FY16 is set. We should involve ourselves in future CIP budget processes each year (conversations begin in summer, public meetings in fall, adopted in October). We may be able to influence funding decisions that include bike facilities within project scopes.
- Decide on recommendations for the use of alternative transportation funds, 5% of parking revenue (~45K annually). It could be spent on its own to pay for projects, be used to leverage other city funds, or as city match for grants from VTrans or other sources.
- Offer ourselves as a resource for information gathering and other assistance as needed.
- Continue to encourage the city to pursue grants and allocate local funds to implement planned improvements.

Desired outcome 2: People who drive cars AND people who bike in Montpelier know how to stay safe and

share the road.

Action 2.1- Draft and advocate for a policy within the police department that all police receive yearly training on Vermont Bicycling Laws, laws pertaining to bicycle/automobile interactions, and bicycle safety education methods & rationale.

Action 2.2 Committee will urge Police Chief to direct officers to be proactive in the areas of bike safety & sharing the road.

We discussed this only briefly. It was suggested that further discussion on these actions should not be taken in the absence of a representative of the department. Mike Philbrick was unable to attend; Bill will speak with him prior to next meeting. We ran out of time for further discussion.

Next meeting will be on February 26 (4th Thursday).

The next agenda will include:

1. A report on the council-established parameters for our committee as to membership, and a discussion on whether our own bylaws are needed.

2. A look at the paving plans for this season, for 5 years, and identify potential bike project recommendations.

3. Continued discussion of current goals/desired outcomes, and decisions about updating them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

Respectfully submitted, Bill Merrylees