

Minutes, Montpelier Bicycle Advisory Committee (MBAC) Meeting – November 20, 2014

Present: Anthony Mennona, Per Tonn, Jon Budreski, Bill Merrylees, Savannah Riddle of VDOH, Kevin Casey of City's Planning/community development. Meeting began at 8:05

Added to Agenda: recent Park Commission Meeting: Anthony reported that there was a lot of emotion involved with discussions of the proposal for a mt. bike trail in Hubbard Park. Kip Roberts stepped down from president of MAMBA (Montpelier Area Mt. Bike Advocates) because of potential conflict of interest issues raised by a member of the public. MAMBA had proposed and gotten approval for the pilot program of kids & beginner guided Mt. bike rides held in the park on 4 weekends this fall. Bill Merrylees had spoken in support of the idea representing MBAC when this was first proposed to the park commission last summer.

A request by MAMBA that the park commission to allow mt. bikes on certain trails in the park catalyzed strong debate on Tuesday. The proposal was tabled, and MAMBA was asked to propose a more detailed plan at the next park commission meeting in December... In discussion, MBAC members present pointed out that this is a potentially controversial and divisive issue. Our full committee will need to discuss the new proposal with MAMBA before taking any position in the matter. Action: Jon will contact MAMBA president Dan Voisin and invite the organization to come to our next meeting and present their plan.

New Timetable and meeting schedule for bike/walk masterplan- Because the long term bike solutions section of the plan has become more extensive than anticipated, the contract for our consultant Jim Donovan has been extended into January. The masterplan steering committee has arranged a **meeting to include Jim and all available members of MBAC, to be held on December 2nd 5:30 – 6:30 pm** at the memorial room of city hall. Immediately following will be a meeting of the entire masterplan steering with Jim for updating and further edits of the plan. **The second public work session on solutions in the plan will be held on December 16th,** The Council Chambers and Memorial Room have been reserved at 6:30 for the event. In light of these two meetings on the December schedule, we will not hold a meeting in our typical Thursday morning timeslot this month.

Greening America's Capitals - Kevin Casey gave an overview of this planning project, focusing primarily on Barre Street, Main Street and their intersection. Map attached.

Transportation Committee- this proposal was voted down in City Council last week. Kevin is of the opinion that better coordination between trans-related committees would result in better decisions, fewer surprises, less duplicity and more successful pursuit of grant funds. Bill M. has met with the pedestrian and parking committees in recent months in an attempt to build relationships and discuss shared goals. Action: Bill will contact these two committee chairs and propose a three-way meeting to determine the merits of informal coordination of goals and workplans.

Other business: Reminder of the Cross Vermont Trail fundraiser November 22, 6:30 pm @VCFA

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Merrylees