

Montpelier Bicycle Advisory Committee

August 28, 2014

Attending: Bill Merrylees, Jon Budreski, Nancy Schulz, Lee Doyle, Anthony Mennona, Per Tonn
Others attending: Amy Nixon, Alex Prolman, Hannah Reckhow

Meeting began at 8:08

Bill updated the committee on the Parking Committee meeting. The majority on that committee favor stronger bicycle parking in the city. Bicycle Committee then discussed location of bike racks in town, noting Shaw's as an ideal location.

Members discussed 1 Taylor St public meetings and the choice to recommend housing, which will allocate most of space to parking.

Bill updated the committee on the potential to get a bike rack in across from State Street parklet – it probably won't happen this year. Parklet will be taken out mid-September. Members then discussed importance of place-making in public health and 'livability'.

Bill mentioned Open Meeting Law – posting agenda at locations and sending minutes to be posted.

Motion to approve minutes (Anthony) – Seconded (Jon) – passes

Infrastructure group update

Statehouse parking and design update – next City council meeting is 26th that this is being discussed. At last council meeting, new exc. director of Local Motion spoke on this subject and convinced council to reexamine reverse angle parking. Members discussed being clearer in their position to council on this issue. Anthony and Bill will plan to attend Sept. meeting to represent committee.

Ring rack update – Bill spoke with Parking Committee about pilot idea. They had some concerns about obstructing parking spaces. Next steps? Write letter to city council and manager, explaining pilot idea for October with cost estimate. Per and Jon will look into costs. Jon and Anthony will draft letter. Discussion will happen within city since police department has voted 'no' on this idea. Add idea of using one space for bike parking? Maybe better to stick to one topic. Attach picture of good example.

Bike lane on Berlin Street has been widened. Public Works is responsive! On River St there is a new 'share the road' sign. Barre St – they just hired the consulting entity that will work on redesign through Green America's Capitals grant. There should be discussion of disconnect between segments of bike path. Anthony: only way to do it is to take up a few spaces of parking. That means 15 spots. Members discussed width of Barre Street. Committee would like DPW to take a closer look and report out their plans for Barre Street repaving process.

Education group update

Tuesday Nancy met with David Schütz, Statehouse curator, and walked around statehouse. Complex acquired bike racks as bike parking found place in budget. Currently there are 2 three-unit racks not visible. One will go to west side of statehouse and one will go on east side of statehouse. One is in front of tax building. DMV bike rack will be moved to more visible place. Overall, it was a great meeting.

Hubbard park mountain bike pilot – Two have happened, two to come. Outreach at Union elementary. Per attended, a good number of kids there. Food from coop. Two structured rides each event. Everyone was having a good time. No problem with collisions, even in high traffic areas of park.

Fall bike festival – moving pretty slowly, Onion River Sports is working on it, Montpelier Alive isn't able to work on it. If it happens this fall it will be much smaller. Cross Vermont Trail needs to do outreach to build match for federal money, so that is an opportunity for bike events.

Anthony – how do we tap into bike summit people?

Montpelier Bikes website – we have bike summit Google Group and can call on them for input when important City Council meetings are happening. Per – be selective of what you send, so it doesn't turn into spam. Alex – we have access, can spruce it up, and use it as a community outreach and education tool and a place to easily find master plan materials. We could even add survey for input. Bill – it's a good domain, and we could make this a MBAC website and have an ongoing email list. Should we proceed? Do we agree with the stated mission?

Motion to proceed with improving and using Montpelier Bikes website – seconded – approved

Bill, Per, and Jon will work on this.

Nancy met with Carl Etnier and State police. Police were very attentive and explained personal judgment at every step in justice system. What is role of committee around issues like this? Jon - Support traffic calming; Per – creating awareness among riders and drivers; Bill – paying attention to conduits in and out of city for Montpelier in Motion

Meeting ended at 9:32