

Montpelier Bicycle Advisory Committee minutes 05/22/14

Members present: Sasha Bianci, Nancy Schulz, Jon Budreski, Bill Merrylees, Per Tonn, Anthony Mennona
Also present: Hannah Reckhow, Alex Prolman

Meeting began at 8:05

Review previous action items and meeting minutes

Committee discussed last meeting and minutes and the State Street decision at City Council meeting. Members noted a disconnect in tone from different parties involved – State, City Manager, DPW, City Council, Mayor. Committee would like to check with Jessie Baker to clarify. Alex will do this.

Education/Bike culture work group update

Nancy gave an update: despite good weather no one showed up either Bike to Brunch events. Next ride is to Maple Valley, and now that weather is warmer hopefully we'll get more people.

Boomer bike ride class has had three sessions of four so far. Eleven people in class, and it is going well.

The weather has been great, the members are enthusiastic, and there are lots of teachable moments.

Because of success, Nancy has decided to offer extended class with eight sessions in evenings beginning July 8-Sept6. Will be open to all adults (Senior Center will waive age requirement)

Per: good for those people who don't want to come on Saturday rides?

Nancy: I know some are riding with other rides besides Bike to Brunch, if they feel like they're burn out...

Per: It's full on bike season and other events may be drawing people away.

Bill: How are we doing with volunteers for remaining rides?

Nancy: No volunteers, I'll do them.

Nancy gave an update of the Ride of Silence: 27 people attended including Lt. Gov Phil Scott (for first time). Ideas for next year, to make it more personal: have pictures, names in display and on arm bands.

Bill: Anyone planning on coming to Bike Safety Clinic? Will change the setup of course and number of stations depending of number of volunteers.

Nancy: if you're choosing between Bike Safety Clinic and Bike to Brunch, volunteer for safety clinic!

Infrastructure Work Group update/Master Plan

Committee discussed the Montpelier in Motion kick-off meeting:

Anthony: Great to meet pedestrian committee and hear the plan from the consultants incorporating our thoughts into the plan. Three or four public sessions will happen, similar to Carr Lot process.

Bill: They have worked with school travel plan.

Nancy: Also state's pedestrian and bike policy plan

Bill: One of the first things discussed was representation at Steering Committee, consistent representation from bike committee. Who here is interested?

Anthony, Bill, Jon expressed interest.

Bill: Absolute dates will be updated once Steering Committee members are chosen. Let's vote on it!

Motion that Anthony, Bill, Jon be appointed to Steering Committee.

Anthony seconded.

Motion passes unanimously.

Committee discussed what information has been sent to consultant. Bill sent consultant many documents. Steve sent pedestrian counter information. Hannah will send Walk Friendly Community application. Room for more information if you think of it. Extra information is better than missing it. Next Steering Committee meeting is June 24th 5:30

Per: Do we want to make a list of priorities? How are we going to do this?

Bill: We've done this already. This will be looked at very closely this first meeting. And there's room to tweak after.

Line of communication is through Jessie Baker, City Manager office.

Anthony: Struggling with thinking of waiting for plan to come out in fall, what can we do in meantime? Signage? Something where we don't have to wait for master plan...

Per: Signage is a good start

Bill: Construction season is about to begin, appropriate for infrastructure group to advise parking revenue money be used for signage after July 1. Especially with paving schedule (no problem to add sign installation then)

Jon will look into this.

Nancy: If deciding between paint and signs, maybe go with paint. (MUTCD control of signs make it trickier.)

Bill: At next meeting we should nail down where Bike Friendly signs will go?

Members agreed.

Committee discussed a potential discussion for the infrastructure working group to have with DPW: the installation of ring racks on parking meters.

Bill: other than the 'what can we do now' idea, I emailed John Kaplan about the VTrans grant opportunity, and whether the shoulder on RT 12 would be a suitable project. He said yes, for a scoping study to extend shoulder. Thinking of approaching Middlesex to apply for study (to Wrightsville reservoir) for more effective application that benefits all of us. Would take a while, but something to do now!

Bill announced a Peddle Paddle and Hike event run by Blue Cross Blue Shield in June.

Other business

Bill gave an update on Cross Vermont Trail: House Transportation Committee agreed to 84,000, but senate took it out. The word went out to public, and there were so many contacts that 'we can't not talk about it'. There was a floor vote after lengthy debate on it. The whole senate said no.

Meeting ended at 9:08