

Minutes of the
Montpelier Pedestrian Committee
Meeting of September 29, 2015
5:35-6:30 pm Montpelier City Hall

Members Present: Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Chair, Erin Aguayo, Tom Aloisi, Mark Provost, John Snell and Harris Webster

Others Present: Laura Biren

Public Comments

There were no comments from the general public.

Agenda

The members discussed and approved an agenda for the meeting.

Minutes

The members approved the minutes of the meeting of August 25, 2015.

Crosswalks

John reported that DPW had painted about two dozen crosswalks in the past month in anticipation of winter. He also was told that they had budgeted to have the crosswalks painted by a contractor in the spring so that the work could happen quickly and early in May. He asked the committee to approve his sending a note to the City Council thanking DPW for their efforts that he felt will improve pedestrian safety. The committee agreed.

We Walk Week

The Committee discussed publicity for We Walk Week. Final corrections are being made to the poster by Erin and Laura. Mark said all publicity was in place with The Bridge, WDEV, Times Argus, and Seven Days. Erin will post notices on Front Porch Forum. All agreed to take posters and put them up around town and send the poster PDF to contacts as appropriate. Harris reminded all that walks are "rain or shine." John reminded people that walks should start with a brief safety announcement. Laura said she'd have a pamphlet ready for leaders to hand out.

Walk Friendly Designation, feedback from Erin's call

Erin reported on her phone call with Dan Gelinne at UNC Walk Friendly . He emphasized that we should review their four primary recommendations which included Open Streets, evaluation, public education and measurement. Of these Open Streets is essential. We agreed to add planning for an event to a future agenda. He also said the reviewers want to see that we have engaged the general walking public in discussions, not just the dedicated members of the pedestrian committee. To that end, he suggested we set up tables in public places and public events to solicit input and communicate with other representative groups in town. Harris suggested we formally communicate with the folks at the Center for Independent Living.

Puddles in crosswalks

All agreed that getting a list of problem areas is important as we head into winter. Each of us will observe locations and send details to John who will collate them for the next meeting.

Winter Safety

All agreed we need to do more to educate the public about walking safety during the dark of winter and on slippery sidewalks. We discussed the possibility of getting lights to give away as well as a method of reporting problems to DPW. Laura will investigate options for the latter and Erin will report back on possible costs for lights.

Next Meetings

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 27. Possible items for discussion include sidewalk condition reporting options, pedestrian safety lights, recap of We Walk Week and a report from Erin and Laura about the conference they attended.