

Minutes of the
Montpelier Pedestrian Committee
Meeting of August 27, 2013

Members Present: Chris Andresen, Chair, Anne Ferguson, Jim McQueston, John Snell, and Harris Webster

Others Present: Hannah Reckhow

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of July 23, 2013 were approved.

Hannah Reckhow

The members met Hannah Reckhow, the new Americorps member whose duties for the City include assisting the Committee.

City Construction

The members discussed the significant amount of road and sidewalk construction going on around the City and its impact on pedestrians. Very positive views were expressed about the new sidewalk being constructed on Liberty Street and some concern was expressed about the impact of the construction on the School Street sidewalks leading to Union Elementary School as the school season is about to begin.

Interaction with the City

Harris Webster reported that he had heard from the City Council members on the Capital Improvement Committee that they will be discussing the sidewalk status report that he had furnished to them. There was a general discussion about how the Committee could interact more effectively with those in the City government who deal with sidewalk and crosswalk issues. Chris Andresen will contact the Capital Improvement Committee about attendance by members of the Pedestrian Committee at a meeting where sidewalks and crosswalks will be discussed. John Snell will contact Todd Law about attendance by Committee members at Department of Public Works meetings that focus on sidewalk and crosswalk issues.

Walking Maps

Anne Ferguson provided the members with a 2004 walking map of the City prepared by BlueCross Blue Shield of Vermont to encourage walking for better health. A general discussion followed about the potential to develop one or more maps with differing focuses to appeal to different audiences (e.g. historical sites, significant architectural buildings, nature walks), and whether maps could be made available via apps. Anne will determine whether the 2004 map is currently available in locations where tourists would be likely to seek information.

Walk Friendly Community Designation

It was noted that Essex Junction had achieved the designation of a “walk friendly community” and that there could be value in talking to those involved about the application process. Jim McQueston will contact Essex Junction to find out if they would be willing to share their experience in applying for this designation with the Committee members.

It was agreed that one way to move forward on determining the scope of the project to apply for the walk friendly community designation would be for subgroups to be formed to consider different areas of the application form. The members volunteered to participate in the subgroups as follows, with the expectation that the members who were not present for this meeting would notify the Chair of the subgroups on which they wanted to participate:

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| • Community Profile | open |
| • Status of Walking | Anne, John, Harris |
| • Planning | Chris |
| • Education & Encouragement | Anne, Jim, Harris |
| • Design & Engineering | Chris, Anne, John |
| • Enforcement | open |

Next Meeting

The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled to be held on September 24, 2013.