

Montpelier Complete Streets Committee

August 7, 2019

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm

Members Present: Gary Holloway (Chair), Jeanne Kern, Phoenix Mitchell, Nancy Schulz, Harris Webster

Others Present: Dona Bate (City Council), Philip Picotte, Kip Roberts

Approval of Agenda

As amended to add an update on Coffee Pooling ridesharing, the agenda was approved by voice vote.

Approval of July Minutes

Nancy identified a typo and Jeanne noted that Councilor Conor Casey said that the Complete Streets Committee would be involved in future efforts related to e-scooter and e-bike sharing. The amended July minutes were approved by voice vote.

Public Comments

Confluence Park and Barre/Main Street Scoping Study

Dona encouraged everyone to complete the survey on Confluence Park. The Confluence Park options vary in terms of prioritizing gathering, performance, and quiet separating spaces. A fourth option, Option D, has been added.

Dona summarized the Barre-Main Street Scoping Study and the choices offering different configurations of roundabouts and traffic signals. Some of the proposals include a shared use path on the south side of Barre Street between Main Street and the Rec Center and include the possibility of quick-build implementation.

Farmers Market Bike Parking Sign

Dona said the Council heard a funding request from Free Ride Montpelier for a banner that highlights bike parking at the weekly farmers market. Nancy suggested that the Committee pay the cost; Gary agreed and noted education and outreach are part of the Committee's mission.

Gary noted that future purchases should occur only after Committee approval, and Dona noted that Corey Line reported the City can often get a better deal than the public on purchases.

On a motion moved (Nancy) and seconded (Gary), the funding request was approved.

Bicycle Education

Kip said that Onion River Outdoors is offering an e-bike lending library so that local residents can try out e-bikes, including cargo e-bikes, to see how they fit into daily activities and local terrain. Kip noted that a customer asked for a cycling class given the limited public awareness of laws related to driving, parking, bicycles, and related signs and road markings.

Nancy said that Kiwanis Community Connections previously put on bicycle rodeos for kids and would ask a Kiwanis member about recent status. Jeanne said that education should also include adults, including adults newly returning to bicycling after years without bicycling.

Gary suggested gathering different organizations (Police Department, Rec Department, Kiwanis) to determine how to offer education. Nancy said the Rec Department is very open to proposals for classes. Kip said Local Motion has grant money for this purpose and could do 1-2 trainings; he will reach out to Local Motion.

Bicycle Ordinance Revisions

Gary said that the conditions of roads and sidewalks, summer and winter, leads users to choose the safest option for them. Dona said the Council will be looking at Chapter 10 of ordinance revisions in the fall. This may include clarifying that bicycle registration is not mandatory and linking the optional registration to a safety check, such as have appropriate reflectors.

This could be an intensive topic for the next meeting. It's easier to edit than write new language, so Gary recommended working off the existing ordinance.

Bridge Ad for August

Phoenix recommended explaining that two abreast riding is allowed, except when there is insufficient space for passing and the flow of traffic is impeded. Jeanne suggested a Share the Road message that emphasizes the humanity of all road users; this "They Are Us" message was used a few years ago.

Siboinebi Path Promotion

The path extension expected to open in November. Gary and John Snell considered locations along the existing path and investigate sign options.

Bike and Walk Friendly Community Status

Gary noted that Walk Friendly Community status has been on the Committee's radar for some time. The Bike Friendly Community status (now a Bronze level) needs an updated application. Gary talked to the Walk Friendly Communities national organizer; the next application deadline is in the spring. Gary suggested this be a winter objective for the Committee.

Hitching Post Coffee Pooling

Phoenix said the Worcester launch of Hitching Post Coffee Pooling went well; Phoenix is reaching out to other communities (Red Hen in Middlesex, Maple Corner, Marshfield, etc.) to determine future locations.

New Business for Next Meeting

The following agenda items were suggested for the September meeting:

- October We Walk Week
- Be Bright at Night Incentives
- Safe and Seen at Halloween
- Reflectors and light for future distribution

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.