

Montpelier Complete Streets Committee

September 4, 2019

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

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

Others Present: Philip Picotte

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as prepared by voice vote.

Approval of August Minutes (Tabled)

Consideration of the August minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Be Bright at Night Initiative

This initiative encourages bicycles and pedestrians to use lights or reflective material, and is partnering with local businesses to make it easier to purchase reflective armbands locally. Aubuchon was not able to carry a reflective armband through existing suppliers, but Onion River Outdoors is looking to carry them and Capital Stationers may also. Freeride, the community bicycle shop, may also sell them at a nominal cost.

Attendees discussed ways to distribute lights and reflective armbands to residents least able or likely to purchase them. One opportunity to promote local availability will be the planned ribbon cutting for the new path on November 10.

On a motion, duly seconded and approved, the Committee approved the purchase of 250 reflective armbands, similar in style to the previous purchase.

The Committee agreed to discuss the Be Bright at Night prizes at the October meeting. (Daylight savings time ends on November 3; the sun will set at 4:37 pm that day.)

Safety Education and Rules of the Road

As part of the Committee's efforts on education, attendees discussed ways to bring education to Montpelier for both children and adults. Local Motion is offering a bike safety class this month for up to 20 participants. The Recreation Department and Police Department have expressed interest in supporting education, but it unclear who will organize actual trainings.

The Committee agreed to offer a stipend or honorarium to help support instructors. Gary will reach out to Onion River Outdoors to learn the level of interest in the September Local Motion class.

Communication to Bike/Ped Advocates

Last spring, Nancy collected a list of about 50 Montpelier residents who are interested in bicycle and pedestrian advocacy. She asked what we want to do with the list. Phoenix noted that Freeride is looking for volunteers who can lend a hand with setting up racks and the tent at the Saturday farmers' market. He will prepare this message to send.

In the long run, Gary suggested developing a Bike/Ped Ambassador program. This would include coordinated training about best practices (e.g., rapid flashing beacons) and rules (e.g., downtown

prohibition on sidewalk bicycling) and about how to get involved in city decision-making and in offering education for children and adults.

Siboinebi Path

The path is expected to be complete and opened with a small ceremony on November 10. Gary will confirm the date and check to ensure that Abeneaki leaders have been invited.

Bridge Ad

Nancy noted that the next ad in *The Bridge* will come out at the end of the month. The Committee suggested explaining the meaning and use of “sharrows”, formally known as shared lane markings, as painted on State Street.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 2

Special Time: 5 pm to 6 pm

New Location: City Hall Memorial Room, adjacent to Council Chambers