

Complete Streets Committee

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 —Rec Center Meeting Room —5:15 pm

Attendance

Members:

Gary Holloway, Mary Ann Angell, Phoenix Mitchell, Merrick Modun, Nancy Schultz, Harris Webster, David Ory, John Snell, Hanif Nazerali (Alternate)

Others:

Dayton [LAST], Brett [LAST]

Approval of Agenda and Past Minutes

A discussion of a Hitching Post at the Farmer's Market at Barr Hill was added to the agenda. John Snell moved to approve the agenda, Nancy Schultz seconded the motion, and the Committee verbally approved the minutes unanimously.

New Member Introductions

New Committee members Hanif Nazerali, David Ory, and Mary Ann Angel introduced themselves. Gary Holloway clarified the role for "alternate" members: if a voting member is not present, an alternate can act as a voting member for the Committee.

Main Street Middle School Crafter's Edge Proposal

Students at Main Street Middle school proposed distributing reflective gear to all students in an effort to reduce vehicle collisions with students. The Crafter's Edge student club requested \$325 in funding from the Committee to support the initiative. After discussion, the Committee decided to move forward with the initiative, with the following communication the Crafter's Edge:

- The funding from the Committee should be viewed as "seed" funding, with a request for Crafter's Edge to find ways to sustain the funds for future efforts, via contributions or other fund raising efforts;
- Request from the Committee for Crafter's Edge to assess the performance of the initiative by measuring the effectiveness of the program over time and reporting back to the Committee no later than June 1 2020.

John Snell moved to allocated \$325 in funding to Crafter's Edge for this purpose, Phoenix Mitchell seconded the motion, and the Committee verbally approved the motion unanimously.

Crosswalk Safety

In response to a vehicle striking a student near the intersection of School and Main, the Committee discussed crosswalk safety. Gary Holloway began the discussion with the suggestion that the City should play a bigger role keeping crosswalks safe; Gary suggested improved lighting and enforcement of setbacks to increase visibility as two actions the city could take to improve conditions. The Committee discussed the ideas and crosswalk safety more generally. The Committee agreed to assess the setbacks of mid-block crosswalks in the downtown commercial district as a starting point and communicate their findings to the Department of Public Works.

Related to this issue, John Snell noted that he has a box of bicycle lights and armbands. The Committee agreed to divide the remaining armbands into two groups, giving one to the police and the other to the senior center. The bicycle lights will remain with the Committee until the summer.

Condition of Guertin Park

Nancy Schultz alerted the Committee to the poor condition of Guertin Park. The park is full of trash and smells of urine. It does not appear to be fulfilling its intended purpose of providing a pleasant respite for those walking along the dedicated pedestrian path. The Committee discussed whether they should recommend relocating the park and the potential utility of the park for the homeless. The Committee agreed to bring the matter up with the Homeless Task Force and discuss the matter in future meetings.

Bridge Advertisements

For the past year, the Committee has advertised in The Bridge newspaper. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of continuing this relationship for a price of about \$500, which is 10 percent of the Committee's budget. The Committee decided to not renew at this time and that Nancy Schultz will discuss the potential of advertising with Front Porch Forum.

Hitching Post at Barr Hill

Phoenix Mitchell proposed that the Committee should support the addition of a hitching post at Barr Hill. A post would facilitate ride sharing between Barr Hill, where the Farmer's Market is located, to other locations in Montpelier, Worcester, Northfield, and Middlesex. The Committee agreed that Phoenix Mitchell should advocate DPW and MITC for the addition of a Hitching Post at Barr Hill.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled at Wednesday, February 5th, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, at City Hall Memorial Room.

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