



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BIKE WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FINAL – APPROVED OCT 22ND, 2024**

*Online & 6 Lincoln St.
(Kolvoord Room)
Essex Junction, VT 05452*
**Tuesday, September 24th
2024, 7:00 PM**

E-mail: mgiguere@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: 802-878-6944, ext. 1625

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

John O'Brien (chair), Russ Miller-Johnson (vice chair), Eric Bowker, Lauren Philbrook, Philip Bieber, David Achee

2. **OTHERS PRESENT**

Michael Giguere (City staff), Jack Evans (Local Motion)

3. **CALL TO ORDER**

John called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

4. **DETERMINE WHO WILL TAKE MINUTES**

Lauren volunteered to take minutes.

5. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

David added Boxcar Bakery update to Members Updates.

6. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

a. August 19th, 2024

David motions to approve, seconded by Russ. Minutes from August 19th, 2024 are unanimously approved (6-0).

7. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

No public comments were made.

8. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

a. RRFB consideration

Michael mentions we've been working on this for a few months and we've identified a places that could use one. Committee has ability to purchase one and store it to install at later date. City pays for installation. Main and Athens is mentioned as a primary location for consideration. Lauren mentions poor visibility and cars moving fast at that location. John says you have to step into road to be seen. Michael mentions Athens leads to higher density housing.

Second one of interest is Lincoln and Central. Phil would love one there. Was talked about a year ago, concern was could cause traffic back up. Michael says good to have options for traffic engineer. John mentions possible problems with T intersection. Michael concern with right turn onto Lincoln from Central needs to be positioned for people to see it. Lauren says people standing there are visible to people turning right. Eric says motorists stop well there for pedestrians but gets a lot of usage. Crossing guard is usually there. Eric maybe we submit both and see. John expresses goal to purchase one every year and Michael confirms that's what we have room in budget for.

Lauren motions to purchase an RRFB, Phil seconds. 6-0 unanimous in favor of purchasing RRFB with install location to be decided later.

Discussion among members about other possible locations. Agree that two mentioned above are highest priority. Members should compile stories and information about these two locations, think about weird sightlines. Discussion about intersection of Susie Wilson and Pearl St, which is not our

territory. Town of Essex is working with state of VT to install two left turns Susie Wilson onto Pearl, counter to our walkability goals.

John says put thoughts into the ones we've prioritized and next meeting we'll put together our arguments. Michael will work on getting the expense of ordering and storing at public works.

b. Approval of Local Motion bike parking survey

Jack Evans from Local Motion- talked about building arcgis based web experience/survey to solicit existing and requested bike parking spaces in the city to build out inventory for Essex Junction and assist with placing the racks we have in storage. Jack has built a basic user-friendly survey with map, can select what type of item reporting, place on map and add image. Jack shows the survey. Survey is formatted primarily for people using phone and will all fit on one page without having to scroll. Don't need account or email, fully public. Outcome is an arcgis layer which shows all the points put on map.

Goal is to collect data, differentiate between existing and desired new locations. Discussion about ideal outcomes of survey including ideas about the quality of existing racks and number of bike parking spaces. Members think survey looks great, exactly what we were interested in. Local motion prepared to look at data and clean it up. Michael says we have 10 racks to install, discusses advertising campaign to get the word out about the survey including social media, local news.

Jack says Local Motion can email either Junction residents in their database or all of Essex and shows example email. Some minor changes to email are discussed. Jack also shares two flier designs from Local Motion to drive traffic to the survey and members agree on one design. Flier could be displayed at public bulletin boards including at library and could ask local businesses.

Michael presents options for a paid ad campaign in Essex Reporter from full page down to 1/8 page. John thinks that the Reporter may want to write a story on this survey and will contact Jackie to see if they might cover it. Essex Reporter is published first Friday of every month and advertising is due last Tuesday of every month, so would not be able to advertise in this month's paper. Group decides to hold off on a paid ad in Reporter to discuss at later date.

Phil motioned ("local motioned") to approve bike parking survey, David seconds, unanimously approved 6-0.

c. Crescent Connector bike lockers

Five long-term bike storage lockers were in the Crescent Connector plan and have been built, now the City needs leasing plan for them. Michael clarifies that these are long-term leased, private lockers that are available to be rented by the public. Leasing plan is based on similar lockers and plan in Burlington: 3 month lease length minimum, \$10/month, key deposit \$50, existing renters can renew and get priority, bike owners responsible for the security of their bike and may only store bikes in the lockers.

Michael- also discusses need for design and advertising plan for the lockers. Design must include city logo and phone numbers of who to contact for leasing. Russ brings up that the most northern bike locker has an ADA sticker on it, which complicates leasing as there may be issues of requiring priority for ADA. The ADA locker opens from the side rather than the end, but group is unclear as to what the ADA sticker indicates in this context. Discussion about how bright colors would be nice, importance of making it clear that these are public lockers and highlighting contact info so that people will know to try to rent them. Group worries about graffiti obscuring signage painted on lockers and perhaps a metal sign nearby would be better. Concern that people may not even realize these are bike lockers. Michael says that members should think about design ideas and how to advertise availability of lockers for the next meeting, reminds us that City communications team has the final vote on the sign.

- d. UVM Capstone Project – Spring 2025
Michael discusses how engineering students at UVM reach out to municipalities, city worked with a group of them previously. City didn't move forward with last project involving Grove St. New group for this year will work on project involving Park Street from 5-corners to the bridge over Winooski on border with Williston to enhance the North/South bike connection. Current problems for bikes on Park St because of parallel parking on both sides of road, buffers built in that don't allow bike lanes, lack of crosswalks at bus stops. Russ says students are ready to start working on this project and mentions it's a difficult road to bike commute currently. Michael says students will attend future meetings to discuss.
- e. Walk to Shop introduction to new members / update
John discusses how a previous committee member was working with this group which produces neon green hand carts to encourage people to run errands on foot. They provide wholesale to agencies and groups to offer to community members, but do not sell to the public themselves. Could function to bring attention to shopping in our downtown, could provide at events on our radar for next year. Walk to Shop is part of the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition. John suggests acquiring a few using our budget to sell or provide as a raffle at future events. Discussion about purchasing some as a public good that could be rented, perhaps based out of Brownell library. John asks for volunteers to carry this idea forward and Phil indicates his interest.
- f. 2014 Report first impressions / Ideas to consider for the future
John opens discussion of this 10 year old report. Some things in it have been done and some would be nice to still do. David is very interested in the bicycle boulevards as a way to circumvent higher traffic areas and believes it would be a low barrier way to work around some of the more difficult streets. Not everyone is comfortable riding their bikes on roads with higher speed traffic. Discussion around some of the connecting options including connecting Cascade to Maple Street through the industrial park, though this may not be feasible. Michael indicates that the City is focusing on the Connect the Junction project which is centered around Park and Pearl Streets. Eric talks about bike and pedestrian project that Essex Town received a grant for and Jack Evans says that Local Motion maintains a database of studies supporting bike and pedestrian safety topics if we should ever need them for writing a grant.

9. MEMBERS UPDATES

Lauren- Lincoln Terrace and School St intersection poor visibility for pedestrians, unsafe for school children. Michael says city will install a temporary plastic curb extension as proof of concept and if it works will build something permanent there.

David- Boxcar Bakery declined bike rack idea in front of their shop. Dominoes building will have required bike parking. Michael - 4 hoop racks going in at the future building at current Dominoes site.

John- In regards to potential bike racks at Planet Fitness and Essex Junction Market, tracked down property manager (Handy) and left messages. Will keep trying to get in touch. Also spoke with business tenants in complex and they thought bike rack would be good.

10. STAFF UPDATES

Michael will be getting an intern who will work on a Traffic Calming Policy to modernize way that residents can report poor existing conditions and make changes. Intern will attend meetings to present info.

11. READING FILE

- 12. ADJOURN** David- motions to adjourn, Phil seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.