



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
BIKE WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

Online &  
6 Lincoln St. (Kolvoord Room)  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
2025, 7:00 PM**

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1. **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

2. **OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Evans (Local Motion), Daniel Liguere (Local Motion), Michael Giguere (staff representative), Alia Liebowitz, Jack Haley, Harrison Jaffe, Gabriel Anama, Joesph Finch

3. **CALL TO ORDER**

a. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

4. **DETERMINE WHO WILL TAKE MINUTES**

a. David Achee volunteered to take minutes. The group agreed to work on a rotation schedule to distribute minute-taking responsibilities.

5. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

a. No changes to the agenda were added.

6. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

a. January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- Lauren motioned to approve with Eric seconding
  - Approved unanimously 5-0

7. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

a. **Winooski Traffic Calming**

- Jack Evans raised that Winooski is reworking their traffic calming policy, and will refer Michael Giguere to see if there are any opportunities for partnership

b. **SunDay Event**

- Jack Evans brought the [SunDay](#) event to the group, and the committee will see if there is any potential for tie in with future BWAC events

8. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

a. Park Street reconfiguration – UVM engineering capstone project

- A group of UVM engineering students presented their progress on their capstone project aimed at redesigning the streetscape of Park Street. The project area runs along Park Street from the Powerhouse Bridge to the Crescent Connector. The current conditions include an inconsistent streetscape that serves vehicle traffic and features sidewalks with limited to no accommodation for bicycles. The project area has been identified as a critical gap in the current bike network that could serve as an important north-south link between municipalities. The engineering students, Jack Haley, Gabriel Anama, and Harrison Jaffe, presented their preliminary findings and sought input and advice from the committee members.

b. Traffic Calming Policy revisions

- Alia, a student from UVM, shared updates on the traffic calming policy revision project. The team also discussed determining the appropriate radius for traffic calming location determination, crosswalk availability, and the potential for incorporating snow-related traffic calming measures. Alia also mentioned the need to revise the policy's description and intent,

and the possibility of testing the policy on South Summit and West Street. The team agreed to continue refining the policy and to consider feedback and suggestions. The committee proposed the idea of using BWAC as a community engagement mechanism for traffic calming submissions. They suggested inviting property owners and submitters to discuss their projects and gather public feedback. The committee also discussed the need for a mechanism to gauge public opinion on installations. They mentioned the difficulty of determining the appropriate radius for submissions and the need for a structured process to moderate and guide conversations. There was discussion of having BWAC serve as advocates for project submitters and provide support before the projects are explained to relevant parties.

c. **Bike Safety Day/Festival**

- Joseph discussed the idea of a Bike Safety Day and Festival, which would include a balance bike race, community engagement, and potential partnerships with local organizations. The idea was in its early stages, and Joseph was seeking input and ideas for the project.

d. **Bike Bus for schools**

- Joseph discussed the potential of tying the event to a larger push for a bike bus, given that Hiawatha might be the City's only elementary school. Committee members offered to help bring up the idea of a bike bus at the Hiawatha PTO. They also discussed the challenges of organizing a walk bus for the Ruby Bridges Day at Hiawatha, and members expressed their willingness to help other parents before their child starts school.

9. **MEMBERS UPDATES**

- a. Lauren Philbrook raised the bike friendly community task force and decided to organize further through email.
- b. John O'Brien provided an update on the recent community meal, where he heard a desire for improved wayfinding for bike routes in the town, and improved maintenance of sidewalks.

10. **STAFF UPDATES**

- a. RRFB purchase and installation at Main & Athens
  - Michael provided an update that the RRFB has been purchased and will be installed in the spring.

11. **READING FILE**

- a. No reading file items were added

12. **ADJOURN**

- a. Eric Bowker made a motion to adjourn, with Lauren Philbrook seconding. The motion passed unanimously 5-0

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