

FINAL

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 51 NORTH PARK STREET &
REMOTE VIA WEBEX LebanonNH.gov/LIVE
7:00 PM, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Smith (Chair); Erling Heistad (City Council); Alan Schnur (remote); Clifton Below (Alt); John Kelleher; Marie McCormick (Vice-Chair); Gregorio Amaro (Planning Board)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Crysl Akhtar; George Sykes (City Council Alt); Amy Chan

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Corwin (Senior Planner)

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A roll call was conducted to confirm attendance as one member participated virtually: Mr. Schnur.

Mr. Below was appointed to serve as a regular member in place of Ms. Akhtar.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 3, 2021

*A Motion was made by Mr. Heistad to approve the meeting minutes of August 3, 2021, as presented.
Seconded by Ms. McCormick.*

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included Mr. Below, Mr. Heistad, Mr. Amaro, Ms. McCormick, Mr. Schnur, Mr. Kelleher, and Chair Smith.

None voted Nay.

****The vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (7-0).***

3) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: none

4) STUDY ITEMS:

B. Lebanon Police – Review of Partnerships/Initiatives (the Committee took up this item at this time) Police Chief, Phil Roberts, addressed the Committee. He explained that he is happy to share the accident reporting information with the Committee. He noted that a speed limit reduction last fall looks promising, as there has only been one vehicle/pedestrian crash incident since it went into effect. He stated that the Department has seen a slight increase in summonses for speeding this year; this could potentially be due to the change in speed limit posting. Chief Roberts stated that the majority of vehicle crashes with bicycles/pedestrians happen in parking lots in West Lebanon.

Police Chief Roberts explained that the Department has two e-bikes. There are five officers that have been trained and certified to use them. The officers that use the e-bikes find them very helpful in getting around and for enforcement purposes. He has not heard a lot of complaints from the public about e-bikes on the local trails.

The Committee discussed the proposed intersection improvements at Mount Support Road and Lahaye

Drive. The conceptual design shows a +/- 1,200' long multi-use path along Mount Support Road, extending northward from the intersection. The Committee discussed how people cross Mount Support from the nearby multiuse paths.

A. Updates from Other Boards

- Planning Office – No updates.
- Safe Routes to School – The group discussed the proposed path by the Middle School.
- City Council – Mr. Heistad noted the City Council recently discussed the facemask ordinance. The Council also heard a report on the Spencer Street cleanup project. The contaminated dirt will be removed from under the old DPW and sent to Chicago. Unfortunately, this will use up most of the money that was allocated for other multimodal projects in the area, such as paving the first section of the Rail Trail. Mr. Heistad stated that the Council also discussed Narcan use by the Police and Fire Departments.
- Planning Board/CIP – No updates.
- Police Reports – Mr. Schnur shared that there has been one additional crash in the City involving pedestrians/bicyclists. This totals to two crashes, year-to-date. This could be a result of the recent speed limit postings. The Committee discussed “Dysfunction Junction.” Mr. Below noted that the potential roundabout project as “Dysfunction Junction” is now a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) project. The project will be put out to bid in January 2023. The project is due to be completed in 2023, with final paving to take place in 2024. This is a long-term, complicated project because there are no good detours around the area.
- Mascoma River Greenway – No updates.
- Class VI Roads – Mr. Heistad stated that two recent meetings were stalled due to improper notification to landowners.
- State of NH Updates – No updates.
- Rails to Trails – Ms. McCormick stated that she believes the group recently wrapped up its 25-Mile Challenge.
- Communications Plan – Ms. McCormick stated that not much has been done for Back to School this year. She suggested reminders to children and drivers.

C. NHDOT Rt. 120 / I-89 Exit project alternatives matrix/ Crossing at Old Etna Road

Mr. Below reviewed a letter from a new resident of the Treetops regarding concern with being able to cross Route 120 to get to local trails. He noted that there was a proposed plan for improvements along Etna Road, with abutters having contributed, but none of the work actually being completed. The Committee discussed providing access from this area to downtown.

Mr. Below explained that a cost estimated completed by the DPW in June included a long crosswalk, a center refuge, a long flashing beacon, and new street lighting. DOT would likely want to also see a tie-in to the traffic signal. There was an idea at one time to create a pathway on north side of Etna Road, on the front lawns, setback from the road. This was proposed to be a 5' hard-packed pathway.

The Committee also discussed extending the sidewalk along Etna Road to Wolf Road.

Mr. Schnur explained that he recently saw an email regarding the Route 120/Hanover Street project, in terms of the priority for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the intersection. The previously discussed traffic light could solve these problems but has not been included on proposals.

5) OTHER BUSINESS:

A. City/State Projects (Special Assessment District, West Lebanon Streetscape Concept, NHDOT 120/I-89 Exit 18, TAP, Lane Widths)

Mr. Corwin noted that the TAP project should have DES approval by the end of the month. They are working on a notice to proceed from DOT. The final design is funded. This project will be out to bid in October 2022, with construction slated for 2023.

There has been a meeting with VHB, the consultant for the West Lebanon Streetscape Concept project. Finalized proposals will be available after DPW comments are received.

B. CIP Projects

The CIP has been preliminarily adopted by the Planning Board. This will now go before counsel.

C. Multimodal Plan Phase 1 – update

A kickoff meeting for the Multimodal Plan took place with the Regional Planning Commission, DPW, City staff, and consultant. The Committee reviewed the tasks and timelines slated to occur between now and August. There will be public engagement occurring in March 2022. The Committee discussed the makeup of the project advisory committee and noted that they would like to have a member on the committee.

It was noted that there is currently \$13,000 being held from the Treetop condominiums, which could be used for projects in the area, such as connecting Etna Road and Heater Road.

6) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & FOLLOW-UP NEEDS: None.

7) ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion was made by Mr. Below to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Heistad.

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included Mr. Below, Mr. Heistad, Mr. Amaro, Ms. McCormick, Mr. Schnur, Mr. Kelleher, and Chair Smith.

None voted Nay.

****The vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (7-0).***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristan Patenaude, Recording Secretary