

FINAL

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 51 NORTH PARK STREET &
REMOTE VIA WEBEX [LebanonNH.gov/LIVE](https://lebanonnh.gov/LIVE)
7:00 PM, TUESDAY DECEMBER 7, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Smith (Chair); Erling Heistad (City Council); Alan Schnur (remote); Amy Chan; Clifton Below (Alt) [7:10pm]; Marie McCormick (Vice-Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Crysl Akhtar; Gregorio Amaro (Planning Board); George Sykes (City Council Alt); John Kelleher

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

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

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 14, 2021

*A Motion was made by Mr. Heistad to accept the meeting minutes of September 14, 2021, as presented.
Seconded by Ms. McCormick.*

Roll Call Vote:

***Members voting in favor included Mr. Heistad, Ms. Chan, Ms. McCormick, Mr. Schnur, and Chair Smith.
None voted Nay.***

****The vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (5-0).***

Mr. Below entered the meeting at 7:10pm. Chair Smith stated that Mr. Below would sit for Mr. John Kelleher in his absence.

B. October 5, 2021

Proposed amendments:

- Page 2, Line 44 – to add, “as well as other intersections...”
- Page 2, Lines 1 & 25 – to changes “Coates,” to “Coats”
- Page 2, Line 4 – Change “Mr. Schnur,” to “Chair Smith”

***A Motion was made by Ms. McCormick to accept the meeting minutes of October 5, 2021, as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Heistad.***

Roll Call Vote:

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

None voted Nay.

****The vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (6-0).***

3) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Sarah Riley, member of the Conservation Commission, addressed the Committee. She noted her appreciation for the Committee's work, especially given the looming infrastructure possibilities in Lebanon. She expressed concern with adding lanes to intersections in Town that are already too wide, or that may extend through compromised wildlife corridors. She explained that she often uses the Route 120/Hanover Street intersection and has concerns about cyclist/pedestrian safety. She stated that she would like for the Committee to advocate for multimodal users; she would also like the bike/ped community to be more involved in the process. Ms. Riley noted concern with the speed of traffic from Hanover Street as it enters downtown.

The Committee discussed mitigation efforts, such as a traffic light or stop sign, at the Route 120/Hanover Street intersection to make a difference in safety.

Chair Smith stated that he would like for the Committee to review an email submitted by Ms. Riley and make comments on some of the items at a future meeting.

4) STUDY ITEMS:

A. Updates from Other Boards

- Planning Office – Ms. Owens explained that the Planning Board recently heard a site plan review for 402 Mt Support Road. This project proposes 204 units across four buildings, with a separate multi-use road to access it and underground parking. There is long-term covered bike storage proposed for each building. There hasn't been any short-term storage shown yet. This is proposed to be an affordable housing project.

The Village Marketplace project will be before the Board for a conceptual review on December 13, 2021.

There will be more discussion about 20 Spencer Street, once it is known how successful the cleanup was.

There has been discussion with DPW regarding redoing the parking lot behind City Hall. This is part of a long-term project between the TIF District and EDC.

The Hanover Street bridge is not slated until 2025.

The TAP project is still waiting for the preliminary design to be approved by DOT.

- Safe Routes to School – No updates.
- City Council – Mr. Below stated that there was a proposal to use revenue from the sale of 20 Spencer Street to pave a section of the rail trail between Spencer Street and Main Street Extension, and to improve access into the parking lot with a 10' wide path. This was put off due to mitigation efforts at Spencer Street. The City Manager believes there is enough money to complete the paving section of this project. There is an idea that it would be nice to pave that section to allow users to understand that the path continues along.

Ms. Chan stated that Friends of the Northern Rail Trail would rather see improvements made to the section connecting the trailhead to the tunnel, over the paving. There may also be grant funding available to complete this resurfacing.

Mr. Heistad explained that a section of trail was recommended to be discontinued along Poverty Lane. Unfortunately, the landowner was not notified prior to the meeting for this, so it has been held up for a couple of months. He noted that the City Council has about six roads it is still yet to discuss. Road #7 extends across the right of way for the railroad and the Class VI Committee recommended that it should be moved to a piece of City-owned land, however this has not yet gone through because a new right of way will need to be secured.

- Planning Board/CIP – this was previously discussed.

- Police Reports – Mr. Schnur explained that there was one crash involving a bicycle or pedestrian in September. There were zero of these crashes reported in October. He believes that the year-to-date total for crashes still needs to be updated. The year-to-date total for 2020 was six crashes involving cyclists or pedestrians.
- Mascoma River Greenway – Ms. Chan was noted that a citizen recently reached the end of the Greenway and did not notice that the Northern Rail Trail continues on from there. It was suggested that a sign could be placed for educational purposes. This could possibly be placed in the FNRT budget next year.
- Class VI Roads – No updates.
- State of NH Updates – No updates.
- Rails to Trails – FNRT is hoping to become an affiliate of Cycling Without Age, which lets groups build a team of volunteers that can pilot a double-seater rickshaw to take others out for a ride. The bike is approximately \$12,000 and would ideally be gifted to Lebanon. There is currently nowhere to store the bike. It might be possible to create a storage shed for this at the old DPW location. Other options were discussed.
- Communications Plan – No updates.

B. Update on the multimodal and complete streets implementation plan

The first project advisory committee meeting for the multimodal plan was approximately six weeks ago. Ms. Owens stated that these projects are mostly on schedule. Phase II funding is in the CIP.

C. Discussion re: NH DOT Rt. 120 / I-89 Exit projects alternative matrix

It was noted that some of the clearest conversations on this item have been captured in past minutes. Chair Smith stated that he would like to see these minute discussions be drafted into a letter.

Mr. Below explained that the group wants cyclists to go straight across Hanover Street at the north end to get to the school, and the only way to safely do that is with a traffic light with pedestrian and cyclist controls. The intersection needs to be considered from a safety design perspective. If work is done on the Route 120 portion of the road, water could be extended to the traffic island, making it a landscaped area and transition point into the nearby neighborhoods. This could define the intersection as a gateway.

Mr. Below noted that May 4, 2021, minutes expressed a vote taken by the Committee that: *“the Lebanon Pedestrian and Bicyclist Advisory Committee recommends that the City includes a traffic signal as part of any preferred/proposed design for the Hanover Street and Route 120 intersection that DPW provides to NHDOT, to facilitate traffic calming and enable cyclists to have safe right-of-way as needed based on signal responsiveness.”* This was voted on 5-0. He explained that he believes this should be presented as the option preferred by the Committee to the DPW, City Council, and State.

Mr. Below also addressed items from the matrix that were discussed during the September 14, 2021, meeting (Line 32, Page 2), *“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.”*

Additional discussions were had on this item during the October 5, 2021, meeting.

A Motion was made by Mr. Below to authorize the Chair to prepare a letter to the DOT, City Council, and Regional Planning Commission that the Committee recommends a traffic signal at the Route 120/Hanover Street intersection, and the improved crosswalk with an island refuge on the northern side of Etna Road/Old Etna Road, and summarizing the comments as discussed in previous meeting minutes of the Committee. Seconded by Ms. Chan.

Roll Call Vote:

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

None voted Nay.

****The vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (6-0).***

D. Discussion re: Winter Safety

The group agreed to discuss this item at the January meeting.

5) OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Updates on City Projects (e.g., TAP Lahaye, Hanover St. bridge)

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

B. Review of 2022 Meeting Calendar

The Board agreed to change its March 1, 2022 meeting to March 3, 2022. Also, to change its October 4, 2022, meeting to October 6, 2022.

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

7) ADJOURMENT:

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

Seconded by Ms. McCormick.

Roll Call Vote:

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

None voted Nay.

****The vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (6-0).***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristan Patenaude, Recording Secretary