

FINAL

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MEETINGS ROOM 1 – CITY HALL &
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM LebanonNH.gov/LIVE
7:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Smith (Chair); Sean Dittrich (Vice Chair); Erling Heistad (City Council); Alan Schnur (Alt); Trenton Meckenstock; Nelson Rooker; Ben Swanson (Alt); Tim Gilbert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kellen Appleton (Planning Board); Jared Toon (Alt); George Sykes (City Council, Alt)

STAFF PRESENT: Catheryn Hembree (Associate Planner)

1) CALL TO ORDER:

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

Ben Swanson sat for Kellen Appleton.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 15, 2025

A MOTION was made by Mr. Swanson to approve the meeting minutes of July 15, 2025, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Heistad.

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

3) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

A. Starr Hill Neighborhood Speed Limit Concerns

Haynes Bunn explained that this neighborhood's streets feel dangerous. The speed limit feels too fast for the area. There are many hills and retaining walls, which lead to sight distance issues. A petition was created, and 33 signatures have been obtained so far. The intention is to try to lower the speed limit and design the street to be safer. Sarah Riley agreed that the area is particularly unsafe for children, and she knows of at least one accident dealing with a child in this area. The group is hoping for the Committee's support. A bill may need to be introduced to the State in order to lower the posted speed limit below 25mph in a neighborhood. Hanover posts some streets at 20mph. The neighborhood has tried reaching out to the Police Department regarding this concern, but a study determined that the volume of cars was not high enough to install a stop sign.

The Committee discussed the possibility of certain safety measures, such as speed tables or painting methods to narrow lanes. The nearby intersections could also be studied in order to determine if mitigation could be useful.

The Committee agreed to create a list of potential mitigation recommendations to go before the Public Safety Committee for review.

4) STUDY ITEMS

A. Crash Data

Mr. Schnur reviewed crash data involving pedestrians and bicyclists by year from 2006-2024. There were more bicyclist crashes in 2023 and 2024 than since 2015. The number of crashes overall seem to be increasing over time.

The Committee agreed to seek out additional data in order to obtain details that would be of help.

B. Bicycle Friendly Community Designation Application - Due June 17, 2026

Ms. Hembree asked if the Committee would like to reapply for the Bicycle Friendly Community Designation. This is a data-heavy application and there is not much of a benefit to the designation itself. The Committee agreed that it would like to focus on obtaining additional crash data instead of spending time on the designation application.

C. Planning Board Item: Mount Support Rd, Marek West Conceptual Review

Ms. Hembree explained that Marek West is proposing to start Phase 2. A concept design has been submitted to the Planning Board, and the Committee is being asked to review this. There was discussion that the proposal seems to surround the living space with a parking lot. There are no bicycle parking improvements proposed. A bike repair stand could be considered. If the parking was placed along the edges of the area, there would be space for communal gathering areas. There was discussion regarding sidewalk access to the bus stop.

5) OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hembree stated that she walked the new Mascoma River Greenway last week. Crossing the train trestle was difficult.

6) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Schnur noted that he was walking the Northern Rail Trail and there is a section that has a 30mph speed limit along it. This should be changed to 25mph. He also asked about regulations for flashing lights in terms of safety. The Committee discussed potential signage that mentions this.

7) ADJOURNMENT:

***A MOTION was made by Mr. Heistad to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Meckenstock.
*The vote on the MOTION was approved (7-0).***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude, Recording Secretary