



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
September 14, 2021

1 Meeting attendees: Chris Buchanan – Chair (remote), Rick Katzenberg – Vice Chair, Wendy
2 Rannenber, Patrick Daniel, Chris Shenk (remote), Judy Shenk (remote), George Bower
3 (remote), and Tom Christensen (remote) [7:07pm].

4 Staff present: Kristan Patenaude – Recording Secretary (remote)

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6 Vice-Chair Rick Katzenberg called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. He noted that there was
7 participation from Committee members both in-person at Town Hall and remotely via Zoom.

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9 **1. The loss of Carolyn Mitchell: neighbor, active community member, local**
10 **advocate, and our fellow committee member**

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12 Chris Buchanan noted that Carolyn Mitchell originally was motivated to join the group in
13 order to preserve the safety of children and to help them be able to move safely around Town.
14 Part of this included helping to advance the School Campus Sidepath project. This project is
15 likely still 1-2 years away from completion, but he suggested the Town consider dedicating
16 the completed sidepath to Carolyn Mitchell's commitment to the Town.

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18 *Tom Christensen joined the meeting.*

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20 The Committee discussed other options such as the installation of a plaque or bench along the
21 Amherst Street sidepath in Carolyn Mitchell's memory.

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23 Rick Katzenberg noted that DPW Director, Eric Hahn, will be retiring at the end of October.
24 He stated that Eric Hahn's energy, dedication, and forward-thinking mentality was a great
25 help to the Committee over the years.

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27 **2. Culvert Engineering Work for AMS/SHS School Campus Sidepath**

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29 Chris Buchanan explained that the Board of Selectmen voted at its meeting last night to
30 expend funds to design the culvert crossing as part of this project. The vote was unanimous to
31 allow the contract to be fulfilled by Hoyle Tanner. The total project is currently estimated at
32 \$225,000, but this estimate will be much clearer one the culvert design work is complete.

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34 Town Administrator Shankle noted that the vote was to allow Eric Hahn to award the culvert
35 contract without bidding out the project to other companies.
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3. Grant Funding Opportunity: EDA-2021-ARPATOURISM Federal Grant for Outdoor

Chris Buchanan explained that the Board of Selectmen also discussed the proposed ARPA grant last night. This grant is a first come, first served grant for outdoor recreational infrastructure. The intention is to take the already-applied-for RAISE grant application, and retool it for this submittal. The Town will not know the status of the RAISE grant until November. The proposal submitted is for an approximately \$7M project that incorporates the School Campus Sidepath project and the Village Streets Multimodal Plan. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to support the ARPA grant submittal.

Chris Buchanan noted that for this grant, if the Town finds another municipality to join in with it, the State can apply to it for both entities with the possibility of all projects receiving 100% federal funding and no match needed. It was suggested that the Town could ask Milford to join in on the grant, in hopes of extending the Amherst Street sidepath into Milford. The Board of Selectmen also agreed to exploring this part of the grant and Chairman Peter Lyon agreed to help in the process.

Rick Katzenberg asked if this might slow Milford from pursuing completing their portion of the sidepath. Chris Buchanan explained that the Milford Board of Selectmen has consistently not supported efforts for multimodal items in their Town, even when funded through a grant.

Patrick Daniel moved to support the Town's application to the ARPA Outdoor Recreational Grant. Seconded by Wendy Rannenberg.

Chris Buchanan – aye, Rick Katzenberg – aye, Patrick Daniel - aye, Chris Shenk - aye, Judy Shenk - aye, George Bower (remote) - aye, and Tom Christensen (remote) – aye; motion carried unanimously.

4. Presentation of Strategic Plan to Board of Selectmen on September 27th

Chris Buchanan asked any/all Committee members to comment on the draft Strategic Plan document and encouraged everyone to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on September 27, 2021, at which time the document will be presented. He gave a deadline of September 21, 2021, for comments/edits to be submitted. This document is essentially an 8-year budget review of how the Committee wishes to fund future projects. He noted that, in the next decade, the Committee is seeking to raise, without additional grants awarded, approximately \$809,000 to fund multimodal projects.

The Committee discussed possible ways to raise these funds including the Multimodal Capital Reserve Fund and increasing the Town's road construction budget to cover some/all of the funding needed.

George Bower stated that it will be difficult to maintain a level of support from the Town's residents for \$98,000 each year over a number of years. He would like to see the Committee get a stable funding source, either included as part of the Town budget or through a bond.

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Chris Buchanan stated that he believes the Committee should continue to pursue the \$75,000 Capital Reserve Fund warrant article at the next Town Meeting. The Committee could continue to raise funds through this warrant article and also include in its Strategic Plan the request for the Board of Selectmen to add approximately \$98,000 to the Town's budget in order to fund multimodal infrastructure.

Tom Christensen noted that the NH Rail Trail will hold a conference on October 16, 2021, in two sessions (AM/PM).

Wendy Rannenberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm. Seconded by Patrick Daniel. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristan Patenaude