



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian  
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - APPROVED  
December 14, 2021

1 Meeting attendees: Chris Buchanan – Chair, Wendy Rannenberg, Chris Shenk, Judy Shenk,  
2 Rick Katzenberg (remote), George Bower (remote), and Tom Christensen (remote)  
3 Others present: Sam Fortier (remote)  
4 Staff present: Kristan Patenaude – Recording Secretary (remote)  
5

6 Chris Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:14pm. He noted that there was participation  
7 from Committee members both in-person at Town Hall and remotely via Zoom.  
8

9 **1. Extension of Amherst Street Sidepath**

10 **2. Status of Trail Easement Expansion**

11 Chris Buchanan explained that he, Rick Katzenberg, and Eric Slosek, Deputy DPW Director,  
12 met with the Milford Town Administrator, DPW Director, and Planning Department last week  
13 regarding the joint application. The Amherst and Milford Boards of Selectmen unanimously  
14 voted to work together to submit the application, due January 31, 2022. The intention is to use  
15 the existing language from the Amherst Street sidepath application as the backbone for this  
16 application. The Committee needs to determine where the path extension could be in Amherst.  
17 The Town cannot apply for construction on land without tangible progress toward an  
18 easement or right of way for construction.  
19

20 Chris Buchanan explained that the extension could extend down Amherst Street toward Birch  
21 Park and then along the B&M Railbed to the north, stopping where the Town's land ends.  
22 There is the possibility of a timber boardwalk to lead to the Post Office area. The other option  
23 would be to extend down the B&M Railbed to the south, where there is the possibility of an  
24 easement on private land.  
25

26 Wendy Rannenberg suggested that extending the path to a commercial space may be more  
27 attractive from the viewpoint of the grant.  
28

29 Chris Buchanan explained that this could easily fund the underpass under Route 101 if the  
30 path is extended to the south.  
31

32 Chris Buchanan explained that Milford is trying to put together a cost profile for the  
33 completion of the Amherst Street sidepath into the Oval. There is also the potential to extend  
34 the sidewalk along Route 13 south to the Granite Town Rail Trail.  
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Chris Buchanan suggested that the Committee prepare the application for both sections of the extension, while being prepared to pull out from the southern extension in January, if needed. The application requires a detailed project description with possible cost estimates.

Sam Fortier stated that the extension on the northern end, with the boardwalk, will be important for the proposed grant opportunity.

Chris Buchanan noted that the Committee will need to try to work with the Amherst Land Trust (ALT) to try to contact 2-3 of the properties in this area regarding potential easements.

### **3. Updates on FY 2023 Budget, Warrant Articles**

Chris Buchanan explained that the Committee currently has two warrant articles on the ballot. One, for \$75,000, is the second of two articles to complete the funding for the AMS/Souhegan School Campus sidepath project. The other is for \$98,000 for design engineering for several Village streets scheduled for road reconstruction. There may be changes made to these articles at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Wendy Rannenberg stated that the Ways & Means Committee voted unanimously for the \$75,000 warrant article, and unanimously against the \$98,000 warrant article. The Ways & Means Committee stated that it will be writing a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting that the \$98,000 be placed directly into the DPW's budget, or, if that was not possible, to create a warrant article for \$98,000 to be raised through taxes as a one-time project. There was support for the cause, just not for the language of the warrant article.

Wendy Rannenberg noted that there were comments on Facebook regarding placing benches along the Amherst Street sidepath. Many people mentioned seeing the sidepath being used quite often.

Tom Christensen asked that a brief video from the NH Rail Trails Coalition be played. He stated that videos are essential as part of this group's actions. For example, a video could be made to show the success of the Amherst Street sidepath. The group agreed that this was important but needs to find someone to create the video.

### **4. Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2021 and October 18, 2021**

**Wendy Rannenberg moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 9, 2021, as written. Seconded by Chris Shenk.**

**Voting: Chris Buchanan - aye, Judy Shenk - aye, Chris Shenk - aye, Wendy Rannenberg - aye, and Tom Christensen - aye; 5-0-0, motion carried unanimously.**

**Judy Shenk moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 18, 2021, as written. Seconded by Chris Buchanan.**

**Voting: Chris Buchanan - aye, Judy Shenk - aye, Chris Shenk - aye, Wendy Rannenberg aye, and Tom Christensen - aye; 5-0-0, motion carried unanimously.**

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80 The next meeting will be January 11, 2022, at 7pm.

81

82 **Wendy Rannenberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Seconded by Judy**  
83 **Shenk.**

84 **Voting: Chris Buchanan - aye, Judy Shenk - aye, Chris Shenk - aye, Wendy**  
85 **Rannenberg aye, and Tom Christensen – aye; 5-0-0, motion carried unanimously.**

86

87 *Respectfully submitted,*

88

89 *Kristan Patenaude*

90 *Approved – February 8, 2022*