



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
February 09, 2021

1. Meeting Venue

Meeting attendees: Chris Buchanan – Chair, Rick Katzenberg – Vice Chair, Judy Shenk, Chris Shenk, Wendy Rannenberg, Tom Christensen, and Patrick Daniel.

Also present: Sam Fortier

Chairman Chris Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:06pm, with the following statement. As Chair of the Amherst Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, as extended by various Executive Orders, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are: Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means: We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting.

All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #929-205-6099 and password 886 2806 4434, or by clicking on the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/88628064434> that was included in the public notice of this meeting.

Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting: We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the Planning Board at: www.amherstnh.gov.

Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access: If anybody has a problem, please call 603-341-5290.

Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting: In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

February 9, 2021

APPROVED – 5/11/2021

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to- Know law.

Chris Buchanan – alone; Chris Shenk – in the room with Judy Shenk; Judy Shenk – in the room with Chris Shenk; Wendy Rannenberg – alone; Tom Christensen – alone; Patrick Daniel – alone; and Rick Katzenberg – alone; all present.

2. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant

Chris Buchanan explained that this project will be able to find efficiencies in expected road construction. In working with the DPW, several projects of scheduled road construction were found to be included in this potential TAP Grant possibility. Since 1976 there have been a series of projects recommended – many of these revolve around the idea of there being two districts in Town: the Village and the Southern School Campus area. If these two areas had infrastructure items that calmed traffic and then had a multi-use path connecting them, this would be ideal. The Town of Amherst hired CLD Engineering in 2001 to complete an in-depth engineering study that also proposed this idea. Several of the routes identified were more highly recommended than others. The goal of all the plans though has been to connect the schools with the Village.

Chris Buchanan explained that the TAP Grant can only have a single project. This larger series of plans could be called the Amherst Pedestrian Bikeway, as it was by CLD in 2001, and parts of it could be requested to be funded by the TAP Grant. The scope of the original School Campus project has been expanded slightly, and there are several roads in the Village (Davis, Carriage, Main, School, and Jones) that are scheduled for construction in the next few years that could qualify for a shared space treatment.

In response to a question from Patrick Daniel, Chris Buchanan explained that the proposed special space treatments for the roads in the Village will cost more overall than the scheduled construction, but due to the 80/20 match with federal funds, these projects could cost much less than proposed.

John Harvey entered the meeting.

The municipal match required would be \$192,000. There is already approximately \$200,000 that could be applied to this grant, thereby saving the Town \$11,000 overall.

In response to a question from Sam Fortier, Chris Buchanan explained that some of the Village streets in particular have a suggested treatment of interlocking permeable pavers as the surface material, with traffic calming integrated. The Committee has been talking with a couple of different companies that make these materials and there is supposedly no issue with snow removal, but this needs to be verified, especially from other municipalities.

February 9, 2021

APPROVED – 5/11/2021

Rick Katzenberg left the meeting.

Chris Buchanan noted that the group needs to have an updated quote budget, including sidepath construction; the DPW also needs to speak with interlocking paver companies to understand the process for drainage and receive quotes. Chris Buchanan noted that this appears to be the maximum scope of the project.

Sam Fortier noted that the DOT occasionally will have funds left over that the Town can request, if the project happens to go overbudget. He stated that he would be happy to send the group the TAP grant applications from 2018 that were awarded the grant for review.

Chris Buchanan noted that a significant portion of TAP grant applications are reviewed by Regional Planning Commissions. He explained that two of the five plans that called for exactly what is being proposed by this group were submitted from the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC).

3. 2021 Warrant Article

Chris Buchanan explained that the Deliberative Session and Voting Day have been moved to May and June. Approximately \$1,200 was raised privately a year ago to promote the Amherst Street sidepath. It will be imperative for this warrant article to be communicated clearly to the public. He believes that Rick Katzenberg will work on creating these communications with donations, as a private citizen.

Wendy Rannenberg noted that some communications can be added to the group's Facebook page and the Amherst Facebook pages in the beginning of March.

4. Private Fundraising

a. Bridge over Souhegan River

Chris Buchanan noted that the School Campus sidepath will end at the water crossing near the canoe port on Boston Post Road. It has been determined that a bridge in this area would cost approximately \$300,000, in order to expand the scope of the project. The State has control over the river, but not the land next to it. The Town has a right of way of approximately 49.5' along the river.

The group discussed the possibility of using a repurposed bridge for this type of project.

John Harvey explained that the ACC must complete a report of this property each year, as it is an LCHIP property. He believes it could be noted that a project of this type would not be an encroachment issue.

b. Municipal Portion of NHDOT Ten Year Plan Project

Chris Buchanan explained that the Town will be required to produce 20% of the cost for this project, running from Birch Park to Walnut Hill Road, approximately \$170,000. There are six

February 9, 2021

APPROVED – 5/11/2021

parcels that are privately owned that this rail trail will run through. He believes the group should start to think about this project for the future.

There is an opportunity to pursue a Bean Foundation Grant on April 1, 2021. The Committee would need to vote to pursue this and write the grant application.

5. Other Initiatives

a. Souhegan Valley Rail Trail

There are no additional updates at this time.

b. Amherst Street Sidepath

Chris Buchanan noted that the hope is to bridge 0.7 miles from the Amherst Street sidepath to Birch Park with a multimodal treatment. The lanes would be reduced to 11' wide, with a painted separation and an 8' shoulder. This is a recommendation from the 2018 STAR Guide from the Federal Highway Administration.

c. Eversource Trail

There are no additional updates at this time.

d. Old Manchester Road

There are no additional updates at this time.

6. Public Trails on Private Land

There are no additional updates at this time.

7. Other Updates

The Committee discussed a ribbon-cutting event for the Amherst Street sidepath. The project is still slated to begin in April, weather dependent.

8. Approval of Minutes - January

Chris Shenk moved to approve the meeting minutes of January. Patrick Daniel seconded.

All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*

Approved: May 11, 2021