



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
May 11, 2021

1. Meeting Venue

Meeting attendees: Chris Buchanan – Chair, Rick Katzenberg – Vice Chair, Judy Shenk, Chris Shenk, Tom Christensen, John Harvey, Patrick Daniel and George Bower [8:13pm].
Staff present: Kristan Patenaude – Recording Secretary

Chairman Chris Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:07pm, 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 Committee 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 Town of Amherst 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.

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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; John Harvey – alone; Tom Christensen – alone; Patrick Daniel – alone; and Rick Katzenberg – alone; all present.

2. June Meeting Reschedule

The Committee rescheduled their next meeting to June 1, 2021, at 6pm.

3. 2021 Warrant Article

Chris Buchanan reminded the group that Warrant Article 32 will be voted on on June 8, 2021. He noted that a presentation regarding the Warrant Article was made during the Deliberative Session. There were no questions or comments from the townspeople present. The Warrant Article has been placed on the ballot as written.

The group discussed where information on the Warrant Article should be posted, which groups should be reached out to, and how much money needs to be raised from private donations.

4. Federal Grant Opportunities

Chris Buchanan stated that the TAP Grant process is ongoing and the outcome of it will not be known for about two months.

Chris Buchanan explained that there is another federal grant, the RAISE Grant, which he would like the Committee to apply for in the same way it applied for the TAP Grant. The RAISE Grant is not only for bike/ped projects, but also includes road projects. This would make it easier for the Committee to include upcoming road construction projects as part of its application. If awarded, this could allow the Town up to \$2.25M in federal funds without raising any additional monies beyond the Warrant Article request. The next step would be asking the Board of Selectmen to sign a letter authorizing the pursuit of this grant.

Patrick Daniel moved that the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee support an application for the Federal RAISE Grant for the Amherst Bicycle/Pedestrian Greenway. Rick Katzenberg seconded.

Roll call: Chris Buchanan – aye; Judy Shenk – aye; Chris Shenk – aye; Tom Christensen – aye; Patrick Daniel – aye; John Harvey – aye; and Rick Katzenberg – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Trails on Private Land

This project is still being pursued with the Amherst Land Trust.

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6. Other Initiatives

a. Strategic Planning

The Committee will work more on this after Town Meeting.

b. Souhegan Valley Rail Trail

No updates at this time.

c. Amherst Street Sidepath

Chris Buchanan explained that an info session was held with the DPW for abutters to the project. Construction should be starting within the next couple of weeks.

Chris Buchanan explained that Eric Hahn, DPW Director, was before the Board of Selectmen last night, regarding some developments to the project. Once engineering was completed, it was determined that the sidepath, originally proposed on the south side of the road, should be constructed on the north side of the road. This will mean that a certain number of trees will be cut down, but will be less expensive than as originally proposed, as there would have been a number of utility poles needed to be moved.

In response to a question from John Harvey, Chris Buchanan noted that the people using the trail from Atherton Commons will now need to cross at a designated crosswalk in order to access the sidepath. It is unclear if a crossing can be put right at the trail ending, as this type of crosswalk, a mid-block crossing, is difficult to get.

Chris Buchanan noted that DOT has gotten back to DPW and is planning to include space along the south side of Route 122 in order to accommodate a bicycle/pedestrian area.

d. Eversource Trail

There are no additional updates at this time.

e. Old Manchester Road

There are no additional updates at this time.

7. Approval of Minutes – February, March, and April

Rick Katzenberg moved to approve the meeting minutes of February, March, and April, as submitted. Chris Shenk seconded.

Roll call: Chris Buchanan – aye; Judy Shenk – aye; Chris Shenk – aye; Tom Christensen – aye; Patrick Daniel – aye; John Harvey – aye; and Rick Katzenberg – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

George Bower entered the meeting at 8:13pm.

Chris Buchanan adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm. The meeting was adjourned.

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126
127 *Respectfully submitted,*
128
129 *Kristan Patenaude*