



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
September 23, 2021

1 Meeting attendees: Chris Buchanan – Chair, Rick Katzenberg – Vice Chair, Wendy
2 Rannenber, Patrick Daniel, Chris Shenk (remote), Judy Shenk (remote), and Tom
3 Christensen (remote)
4 Also in attendance: Rob Clemens (Chair Amherst Conservation Commission), John Harvey
5 (remote, Amherst Conservation Commission), and Gordon Leedy (Amherst Land Trust)
6 Staff present: Kristan Patenaude – Recording Secretary (remote)

7
8 Chris Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. He noted that there was participation
9 from Committee members both in-person at Town Hall and remotely via Zoom.

10
11 **Staff Note: A physical quorum was not present, as required per RSA 91-A:2, as such the**
12 **following does not constitute a proper meeting of the BPAC.**

13
14 **1. FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation**
15 **grant opportunity & relevant trail easement considerations**

16
17 Chris Buchanan stated that the discussion will focus around approaching landowners with the
18 possibility of obtaining easements along private property near trail corridors in Town. Some
19 people may have concerns about having public access on their land. This group can work to
20 communicate the reality about this process and answers any concerns. He asked that the group
21 not discuss any specific landowner during the meeting.

22
23 Chris Buchanan noted that currently there is a potential 100% federally funded grant for
24 projects of up to \$10M, with a stipulation that trails on private land have either a permanent
25 easement or a written document moving towards such an easement. There are a number of
26 parcels in Town that could be used to create connectivity.

27
28 Chris Buchanan noted that the Board of Selectmen voted to allow the BPAC to move forward
29 with its ARPA Outdoor Recreation Grant application, with a 20% Town match if awarded.
30 There is a separate grant through ARPA that could be applied for that looks to 100% fund a
31 project if two municipalities apply for a project within both towns. One project that could be
32 considered for this grant would be extending the Amherst Street Sidepath project into Milford.
33 Gordon Leedy, Amherst Land Trust, suggested a sidepath down Route 122 into Hollis. Chris
34 Buchanan noted that any project would need to have a reasonable chance of being completed
35 by 2027.

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37 In response to a question from Gordon Leedy, Chris Buchanan explained that the Office of
38 Economic Development is the one that makes the decision regarding these grant applications.

39
40 Chris Buchanan explained that Chairman Peter Lyon of the Board of Selectmen has agreed to
41 help communicate the possibility of this project and grant to Milford.

42
43 The group reviewed a map of the proposed Baboosic Greenway, running from Bedford to
44 Hollis, through much of Town.

45
46 There was discussion as to what makes trails multimodal and how they should be described to
47 landowners. Gordon Leedy noted that he believes there is a difference between rail trails for
48 bikers to use and a trail system for connectivity through Town. Rob Clemens stated that
49 connection needs to be made through the length of the Greenway in order to create whatever
50 kind of system is then put in place.

51
52 Tom Christensen noted that he would like to remove reference in the Public Trails on Private
53 Land to trails for mountain bikers, as he believes this item is already being well-covered by
54 the Conservation Commission. Chris Buchanan stated that he believes this document is
55 broader and could even be utilized by the Conservation Commission. Rob Clemens explained
56 that the Commission currently has a document for this purpose, but that he will review the
57 Public Trails on Private Land document to see if it could be useful. Chris Buchanan explained
58 that there cannot be connectivity trails all throughout Town, but that this could be useful in
59 certain places.

60
61 The group discussed which landowners along the route have already been spoken to. Patrick
62 Daniel asked how the Conservation Commission goes about approaching landowners
63 regarding possible trail easements. It was discussed that anyone who knows an individual
64 property owner could address the idea personally. Chris Buchanan suggested that
65 Conservation Commission members could help by reviewing the easements that may exist on
66 properties already and then addressing any landowners they know.

67
68 Chris Shenk stated that he believes landowner concerns may revolve around liability and the
69 proximity of a proposed trail to their home. He explained that long trails are rarely consistent
70 in their surface material.

71
72 Rick Katzenberg stated that he can speak to a couple of the properties listed in Parkhurst
73 Place, Camp Young Judaea, the Shenk's property, and McOsker Kennels; all of which have
74 interest in discussing this project. Gordon Leedy stated that he would discuss the project with
75 the LaBelles. He suggested breaking the route into segments and finding a champion for each
76 segment who could work to discuss the project with landowners. The group agreed and broke
77 up the route into sections.

78
79 Chris Buchanan noted that, in terms of the corridor of land running under the Eversource
80 power lines, he is working with the NH Rail Trail Coalition to amend the State's Recreational

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81 Use Statutes to explicitly call out utility corridors and railroads as included. There is a
82 bipartisan group of sponsors for the bill and it will be presented shortly.

83

84 The group agreed to continue to work on speaking with landowners and reconvene at a future
85 date with updates.

86

87 **The meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.**

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90

91 *Respectfully submitted,*

92

93 *Kristan Patenaude*