



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
October 18, 2021

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

6 Chris Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. He noted that there was participation
7 from Committee members both in-person at Town Hall and remotely via Zoom.
8

9 **1. Status: Public Outreach for Trails on Private Land**

10
11 Chris Buchanan explained that there is currently a federal funding grant opportunity for a
12 100% match for outdoor recreational infrastructure. This grant is first-come, first-served, so
13 the Committee is hoping to complete the application as soon as possible. The 100% match
14 also requires interjurisdictional infrastructure to be built within Amherst and another
15 municipality. He explained that Board of Selectmen Chair Peter Lyon has organized a
16 meeting with the Milford Board of Selectmen Chair to take place within the next week or two.
17 This project would likely look to extend the Amherst Street side path into Milford.
18

19 The Committee will continue to pursue easements with private property owners in order to
20 create a contiguous corridor along the abandoned B&M railbed.
21

22 **2. Strategic Plan Presentation to the Board of Selectmen**

23 Chris Buchanan stated that he presented the Committee's Strategic Plan to the Board of
24 Selectmen a week ago. The plan highlighted the importance of bicycle and pedestrian
25 infrastructure, as noted in the town-wide Master Plan Survey. Survey questions regarding the
26 safety of pedestrian and bicycle paths in Town were some of the most popular questions
27 listed. The Board of Selectmen seemed to understand the Committee's procedure and was
28 generally supportive.
29

30 Chris Buchanan outlined the proposed funding method, as shown in the Strategic Plan. He
31 explained that the School Campus project is estimated to cost \$224,000, with an expectation
32 to begin building in FY24. \$98,000 is estimated for engineering of the five Village streets
33 project; these streets are currently slated for a road reconstruction next year. There is also a
34 \$470,000 grant match for the Town's portion of the Baboosic Greenway project, slated for
35 FY30.
36

October 18, 2021

DRAFT

Chris Buchanan noted that the committee has two proposed Warrant Articles to place on the ballot in March. The first is the same School Campus project Warrant Article as seen on last year's ballot for \$75,000, to be placed into the Amherst Multimodal Capital Reserve Fund. It would be preferred to fund this project through a grant or private funding. The second warrant article is for \$98,000, to be placed into the Amherst Multimodal Capital Reserve Fund, to fund engineering for improvements to scheduled road reconstruction of the five Village Streets. The Town would be able to use money already budgeted for this road reconstruction as a match if a grant was awarded. However, engineering is critical to receive this funding. The Board of Selectmen suggested the Committee put a Warrant Article for the engineering of this project on the ballot.

Simon Sarris stated that he would like to begin work on a new website for the Committee.

Rick Katzenberg moved to support both draft Warrant Articles (X1 and X2), as presented. Wendy Rannenberg seconded.

Rick Katzenberg amended his previous motion, to accept both Warrant Articles (X1 and X2), as presented. George Bower seconded.

Voting: Chris Buchanan – aye, Rick Katzenberg – aye, Wendy Rannenberg - aye, Chris Shenk - aye, Judy Shenk - aye, Simon Sarris - aye, George Bower - aye, John Harvey - aye, and Tom Christensen - aye; motion carried unanimously.

3. 8-Year Long-term Budget Discussion

Chris Buchanan noted that the eight-year, long-term budget was completed, as requested by the CIP Committee.

4. Review of Open Projects

Chris Buchanan stated that the Amherst Street sidepath should be completed within the next week or two. The Town will take over the striping of the Amherst Street bridge over Route 101 after the State finishes its bridge project next year. This will help to extend the sidepath toward Birch Park.

The Committee discussed having a ribbon cutting event for the new Amherst Street sidepath. There was discussion about coordinating with the Garden Club regarding a memorial for Carolyn Mitchell. It was decided that Wendy Rannenberg, Rick Katzenberg, and Judy Shenk will coordinate this event.

There will be a meeting on October 28, 2021, for neighbors of the Old Manchester Road area, regarding the proposed advisory shoulder treatment. This will be held via Zoom.

5. Private Fundraising Discussion

The Committee discussed possible private fundraising opportunities for multimodal projects around Town. It was noted that donations can be sent to the Town with a letter to distinguish

October 18, 2021

DRAFT

what project they are for. The Board of Selectmen would then vote to approve the donations, which are tax deductible.

The Committee discussed finding a nonprofit organization, like the Community Foundation, to act as a middleman for these donations.

John Harvey stated that there will be an event on the Town Green on Friday, October 22, 2021, at 11:30 AM to recognize and thank DPW director Eric Hahn for his years of work.

Rick Katzenberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm. Wendy Rannenberg seconded.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristan Patenaude

Minutes approved: December 14, 2021