



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian  
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT  
November 10, 2020

**1. Meeting Venue**

Meeting attendees: Chris Buchanan – Chair, Rick Katzenberg – Vice Chair, Judy Shenk, Chris Shenk, Patrick Daniel, John Harvey (Alternate), Tom Christensen, George Bower, Wendy Rannenberg (Alternate) and Simon Sarris (Alternate) [6:25pm].

Staff present: Natasha Kypfer – Town Planner, Kristan Patenaude – Minute taker.

Chairman Chris Buchanan called the meeting to order at 6:05pm, 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 845 3052 3944, or by clicking on the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/84530523944> 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](http://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; Patrick Daniel – alone; Tom Christensen – alone; John Harvey – aye; Wendy Rannenberg – alone; George Bower – alone; and Rick Katzenberg – alone; all present.**

## **2. Tom Christensen Appointment**

Chris Buchanan stated that the Board of Selectmen voted last night that Tom Christensen is now an official member of the Committee, with a term expiring March 2021.

The group congratulated Tom Christensen.

## **3. Proposed 2021 Warrant Article**

Chris Buchanan explained that he would like for the Committee to consider how it will work to communicate to the public about this Warrant Article. He explained that the Warrant Article is currently slated to be #32, which would make it the same number as last year's multimodal Warrant Article. He explained that another issue is that the TAP Grant is probably about five months or so away, close to July 2021. If the grant ends up having a minimum cost, there will be an added complexity to communicating about this Warrant Article.

Wendy Rannenberg suggested that the group focus on communicating that this Warrant Article is to establish a CRF for the purpose of funding a sidepath near Souhegan High School. She believes the message communicated should be simple for now.

Patrick Daniel agreed. He noted that the grant is not a guarantee and the minimum is not yet known. He believes the communication should not be made more complex than needed.

*Simon Sarris entered the meeting.*

Chris Buchanan explained that the Committee already has a list of secondary projects that could be used to help meet the grant minimum, if there is one. One of the more detailed ideas is that of alternative surface materials in the Village, as part of upcoming road construction.

George Bower noted that there is language in the Warrant Article about using the funds to get matching grant funding. This wording should serve the purpose of helping to communicate about this to the public.

Simon Sarris and Tom Christensen both expressed concern about transparency and questions from the public about other projects these funds might be used for.

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George Bower explained that Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) are CRFs – their purpose is to be used over time to get funding to do future projects. He believes this Warrant Article should be pushed as a CRF with the first project on the Committee’s list being the sidepath near Souhegan High School. When questions come up about grants, members of the Committee can use this as a segue to discuss this further.

George Bower read the language for the Warrant Article:  
Amherst Multimodal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund:

“To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under RSA 35:1 known as the “Amherst Multimodal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund” for the purpose of making multimodal capital improvements within the town including but not limited to capital construction to support non-motor vehicular uses and to provide matching funds for state, federal and private grant programs, and to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to this fund, so established, and further, the Select Board shall be named agents of the fund and be authorized to make expenditures from the fund.”

Simon Sarris questioned if it was discussed to have separate Warrant Articles for creating a CRF and funding it. He explained that it will be difficult to accept donations if the entire CRF Warrant Article is rejected by the voters and the Committee is left without an account to put funds into.

Chris Buchanan explained that he believes the Committee could ask the Board of Selectmen to create a budget line item for the Committee to put donation funds into, if the Warrant Article fails.

Chris Buchanan explained that the Committee has been invited to attend the Ways & Means Committee meeting on November 23, 2020, after the Board of Selectmen meeting. He explained that the Committee will plan to present information to them at that time.

#### **4. Communications**

##### **a. 2021 Warrant Article Public Awareness Campaign**

The group discussed ways to communicate to the public about this Warrant Article.

Rick Katzenberg suggested that the Committee hold a public meeting via Zoom.

In response to a question from Patrick Daniel, Wendy Rannenberg explained that she believes the public will be enticed enough just in hearing about the topic of the proposed project to come from this Warrant Article.

George Bower suggested that the PTA could be used to get the word out to parents. He also suggested that the Committee look into holding this meeting at some point in December, as there are usually a lot of hearings for the Town and Schools in January.

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Chris Buchanan suggested that the group look at hosting this meeting on December 15, 2020. Kristan Patenaude suggested inviting parents of Mont Vernon students who will be incoming to Souhegan High School to the information session.

**b. Old Manchester Road Advisory Shoulders**

Chris Buchanan explained that the Highway Safety Committee met on October 27, 2020, to discuss advisory shoulders in Town. The Committee voted unanimously to support an advisory shoulder along Old Manchester Road. He explained that DPW Director, Eric Hahn, then presented this plan to the Board of Selectmen last night. The Board seemed very supportive of the effort but requested that the DPW and Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee first hold an information session about the road treatment for abutters and interested parties. The DPW agreed to take the lead on this info session. He assumes that the DPW will look to schedule a date for this next week.

In response to a question from Hannah McCarthy, abutter, Chris Buchanan explained that the roadway will not be changed in any way during this treatment; only the line striping will change.

George Bower explained that roads in this area don't currently tell drivers to give much space for bicyclists and pedestrians. This new striping treatment will alert drivers to the fact that bicyclists and pedestrians have just as much right to use the road as they do. The new striping technique will not change the design of the road but will place emphasis on the driver to give a safer space for bicyclists and pedestrians. It will also make bicyclists and pedestrians feel safer on the road. He noted that the DPW plans to completely reconstruct this road within a few years. This striping treatment will be located within the Town right of way along the road. This area of Town seems an ideal place to test this concept, as there is not a lot of through traffic and it mostly services the people who live within the neighborhoods here. He explained that he believes the road will become quieter after this change, and that the speed levels will be lowered.

**5. Project Status**

**a. Amherst Street Sidepath**

Chris Buchanan explained that he, Eric Slosek, Eric Hahn, and Mark Bender met a few weeks ago to look at the Amherst Street sidepath extending into Milford. The DPW is looking into how to expand the sidepath to Birch Park. Information has been submitted to the DOT, in hopes of giving the Town permission to restripe part of the road for an 8' multimodal space, using a paint technique. He explained that there are some areas along this stretch of road, such as near Courthouse Road, that are quite narrow and may be worthy of some removable crash barriers. These types of treatments are laid out by the Federal Highway Association. Even with this type of barrier, there is still enough space along these stretches to have two (2) 11' lanes on the north side of the road and an 8' multimodal space on the south side of the road.

**b. Boston Post Road Sidepath (Proposal)**

This project was already discussed earlier in the meeting.

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170                   **c. Eversource Transmission Lines & Public Access to Buck Meadow,**  
171                   **Parkhurst Place, SHS, AMS, Bean Fields, Horse Hill Nature Preserve**  
172                   **(Merrimack)**

173 Chris Buchanan explained that he has received communication from Eversource that they are  
174 not willing to support a walking trail under the powerlines, along the right of way. Eversource  
175 explained that it needs unfettered access to and through this right of way.

176  
177                   **d. Old Manchester Road**

178 This topic was discussed by the group earlier.  
179

180                   **e. Amherst Village Multimodality Project**

181 Chris Buchanan explained that this project looks to create a Special Roadway District within  
182 the Village. This could be a good second project to look at, if the TAP Grant ends up having  
183 an associated minimum. The three proposed roads in Town for this treatment could be  
184 completed, with the incorporation of federal funds, fairly easily. The proposed treatment is  
185 interlocking pavers that look like brick but are permeable and better for the environment. He  
186 presented this idea to the Historic District Commission (HDC) about a year ago and had  
187 members of the company Unilock present to the Commission at that time. The HDC regularly  
188 discourages the use of asphalt in the Village and seemed generally positive about the idea/  
189

190 Chris Buchanan noted that the DPW Director requested to pave the small parking area  
191 adjacent to Town Hall, but was turned down by the HDC, due to their desire not to have  
192 increased pavement in the Village. He suggested that this area might be a good test site for  
193 using the interlocking pavers. This could show that they are plowable and good for drainage  
194 before using them on a larger stretch.  
195

196 Chris Buchanan explained that a change in road surface materials gives a number of  
197 feedbacks to the driver to help keep speeds low. There are tactile and auditory feedbacks, in  
198 that the car will rumble as it drives over the pavers. The space also looks different from others  
199 around it, giving the cue that the space is for everyone, not just vehicles.  
200

201 The group gave suggestions about where the pavers could be placed for a trial.  
202

203                   **6. Public Trails on Private Land**

204 Chris Buchanan explained that the ACC will be creating a trail that connects the B&M Rail  
205 Trail to the Josiah Parker trail. This was one of the Committee's proposed projects from quite  
206 a while ago. Kristan Patenaude noted that there will be a trail day to create this trail on  
207 November 14, 2020, at 8am.  
208

209 George Bower explained that the Amherst Land Trust would like to see a list of the group's  
210 prioritized projects for Public Trails on Private Land.  
211

212                   **7. Souhegan Valley Rail Trail**

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Chris Buchanan explained that there will be a meeting about this on November 12, 2020, at 7pm via Zoom for public officials. There will be a similar meeting for the general public held on December 3, 2020, at 7pm via Zoom. The group can help with promoting and advertising these meetings around Town.

#### 8. Other Updates

Wendy Rannenberg explained that she learned that the “No Biking” signs installed at Meadowview Cemetery came from a Cemetery Trustee who found something in their regulations that allowed for posting for “no horses, bikes, etc.” in the cemetery. This is a Town rule, not a State rule. She noted that there is nothing in the Trustees minutes about this decision. She explained that cars are still allowed in the cemetery.

Rick Katzenberg explained that there are benches in the back of the cemetery that look out over one of the prettiest views in Town. He believes this disallowance of bikes should be brought back up to the Trustees. He stated that he will speak to Cynthia Dokmo about this.

#### 9. Approval of Minutes

**Rick Katzenberg moved to approve the meeting minutes of September and October, as presented. Patrick Daniel seconded.**

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

**Wendy Rannenberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm. Rick Katzenberg seconded.**

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kristan Patenaude*