



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
June 13, 2023

1 Meeting attendees: Chris Buchanan, Wendy Rannenberg, Judy Shenk, Chris Shenk, Tom
2 Christensen, and George Bower (remote)

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4 Staff present: Kristan Patenaude – Recording Secretary (remote)

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6 Chris Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:14pm.

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8 **1. Updates on multimodal counters**

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10 Chris Buchanan explained that the multimodal counters have been in place along the side path
11 on Amherst Street for five months. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)
12 would like to collect the data from these and post it to their website. Data is constantly being
13 collected along the side path. It is unclear if the bike induction loops have yet been activated
14 on the counters. Currently, bikes are counted as pedestrians, and will be until these loops are
15 activated. NRPC sent over two weeks of data. He will email these numbers to the group. The
16 two counters, one on Balsam Lane, and the other near 130-ish Amherst Street, showed an
17 average of 66 users per day and 76 users per day respectively. The peak numbers of passersby
18 on a single day were 119 and 216 respectively. These numbers seem high, and it is possible
19 the data could be a bit skewed. NRPC continues to routinely collect data from the counters
20 every few weeks.

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22 Tom Christensen stated that he has been keeping an eye on trash along the side path and has
23 not seen much, which is quite reduced from what he saw last year.

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25 **2. Baboosic Greenway fundraising discussion**

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27 Chris Buchanan explained that he spoke with Rick Katzenberg, and the Community
28 Foundation is happy to host a fundraising campaign for this item. The Foundation will next
29 receive information from the Committee regarding how to describe this fundraising activity.
30 The Bean Foundation met yesterday to vote on its potential donation to this effort. Once the
31 outcome of this vote determined, Chris Buchanan stated that he will relay the information to
32 the philanthropist to see if there is still interest in donating to this project. Chris Buchanan
33 noted that he has heard there is an opportunity to get greater community buy in through a
34 community fundraising program. He will have additional information on this item for the
35 Committee at its next meeting.

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37 **3. Other business**

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DRAFT

Chris Buchanan explained that he recently met with the Heritage Commission regarding potentially renaming the B&M Trail to the Baboosic Greenway, in order to make this a recognizable path in Town and show the public what is trying to be emulated through the Baboosic Greenway project. The Milford & Manchester branch railroad was built in the 1800s by the Concord & Montreal Railroad Company. This was discontinued in 1930. It changed hands several times and was owned by B&M (Boston & Maine)/Pan-Am Railways for a period of time. Eventually, the Town got possession of the branch and named a trail in this area the B&M Trail. This trail still exists, but as it is within the Baboosic Greenway project area, there was a suggestion that it be renamed in order for clarity. The Heritage Commission would like to commemorate the history of the route and create section names along the Greenway. Thus, this area could be the B&M segment of the Baboosic Greenway. He will pass along this suggestion to the Conservation Commission, which manages the trail for the Town.

Chris Shenk noted that there was previous conversation with the Heritage Commission regarding creating an old train depot station in the area of the B&M Trail. Chris Buchanan agreed that this could be discussed with the Committee in the future.

Tom Christensen suggested a simple bridge span to be created for the Baboosic Greenway as a temporary measure to help pedestrians pass over an existing culvert. Wendy Rannenberg suggested working on a proposed bridge crossing with the Conservation Commission.

Tom Christensen asked about public education activities for the Committee. Wendy Rannenberg suggested that the Committee could have a table at the 4th of July event on the Green. Tom Christensen stated that he would work to organize this. Wendy Rannenberg stated that she would request that the Committee's table be placed near the Conservation Commission table.

Wendy Rannenberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm. Seconded by Judy Shenk.

Vote: 5-0-0, motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*