



**Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
November 14, 2023

1 Meeting attendees: Chris Buchanan, Wendy Rannenberg, Rick Katzenberg, Chris Shenk, Judy
2 Shenk, George Bower

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4 Staff present: DPW Director, Eric Slosek; Jennifer Stover, Executive Assistant; Kristan
5 Patenaude – Recording Secretary (remote)

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7 Chris Buchanan called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

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9 **1. Budget & warrant article update**

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11 Chris Buchanan explained that the Committee is proposing its previously requested warrant
12 article, closing out the School Campus project, and a new \$35,000 line item within the DPW
13 budget this year. The budget line item will help to fund a Beaver Brook bridge construction
14 over recently donated parcels and any work for the State 10-Year Plan project for the next
15 year.

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17 Wendy Rannenberg noted that the Ways & Means Committee invited Chris Buchanan to meet
18 with it next week, prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting, to discuss these requests.

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20 Eric Slosek noted that his Department has requested another budget item listed under the
21 DPW budget for bicycle and pedestrian items. He answered questions from the Ways &
22 Means Committee regarding this item and how funding could be used for matching grant
23 opportunities.

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25 **2. Rail trail updates in the area of Mulberry Ln**

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27 Chris Buchanan noted that there have been some improvements going on along the easements
28 in the area of Mulberry Lane, including tree clearing. Eric Slosek explained that one objective
29 of these projects is to allow people to understand more about granting easements. The DPW
30 plans to install a culvert pipe across one of the crossings in this area, along with signage
31 explaining where the end of the easement is located.

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33 Chris Shenk noted that he spoke with legal counsel, and it appears the Town can put a trail
34 along the easement. Regarding payment for legal counsel, the Amherst Land Trust has stated
35 it has sufficient funds to pay for this.

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Chris Buchanan stated that he would continue to speak with the Board of Selectmen regarding this item.

3. NH DOT Baboosic Greenway Ten Year Plan status update

Chris Buchanan stated that this project is still awaiting a budget. Once a budget is available, he would like to meet with some of the Board of Selectmen to brief them on the project. The goal should be to place this on the Selectmen's agenda for December 4th.

4. General fundraising

Chris Buchanan noted that there is a fundraising page open through the Amherst Community Foundation for the Rail Trail project. He met with the anonymous philanthropist who would like more concrete items to occur before solidifying a donation amount. Specifically, more information from the Selectmen meeting on December 4th.

Chris Buchanan noted that the Bean Foundation has obligated \$70,000 for the 10-Year Plan project and CMAQ project. This would likely be given to the Town over three years. This already offsets much of the Town's municipal obligation for these projects. Rick Katzenberg suggested requesting a letter regarding this support to present to the Selectmen.

5. Approval of minutes of September 12, 2023

**George Bower moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 12, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Rick Katzenberg.
Vote: 6-0-0, motion carried unanimously.**

6. Other Business

Chris Buchanan reviewed the counter data from the Amherst Street sidepath. He stated that he would like this data to be placed on the Town's website. At the Country Mansions counter, there was a daily weekend average from June to October 20th of 72 pedestrians per day and 95 pedestrians per weekday. Since June, there have been a gross total of 1,744 cyclists and 13,852 pedestrians using the path. The second counter is located west of Balsam Lane.

Chris Buchanan noted that Rick Katzenberg has a new potential Committee member that may sit in on next month's meeting. Chris Buchanan noted that he will be leaving Town within the first quarter of next year and a new Chair will be needed. Wendy Rannenberg stated that she will consider this further.

7. Adjournment

Rick Katzenberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm. Seconded by Wendy Rannenberg.

TOWN OF AMHERST
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

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81 **Vote: 6-0-0, motion carried unanimously.**

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83 *Respectfully submitted,*

84 *Kristan Patenaude*