



Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Workshop Agenda

January 12th, 2021 – **7:00 pm**

I. Meeting Venue & Change in Regularly Occurring Time

Based on a consensus at the 12/2020 meeting, regular meeting times for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee have changed. Though meetings will continue to occur on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, **the regular meeting time has been changed to 7:00pm.**

Please be advised that the Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee will be meeting online via ZOOM. In order to participate in the public ZOOM meeting, please click the following link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87008008244?pwd=a1F3RGZ4N0k1VmpxbndxcWxVL2d6UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 2806 4434

Passcode: 03031

OR

Dial in by phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

II. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Announced

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation has announced “Round 4” of the TAP program this month, with letters of intent from applying towns due on February 5th, 2021. This grant could cover the majority of the cost of the Boston Post Road School Campus Sidepath project, but likely would rely on the passage of Warrant Article 32 this March. <https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/tap/index.htm>

Several details about the grant have finally been revealed:

- Minimum project limit is \$400,000 total dollars – (\$320,000 federal)
- Maximum project limit is \$1,250,000 total dollars - (\$1,000,000 federal)
- Project will require at least a 20% match provided by the applicant

Due to the limits of this grant, it is likely that the Boston Post Road School Campus Project in its current form would fail to reach the minimum project cost.

The committee should discuss this fact and whether other projects should be considered in this application.

III. 2021 Warrant Article

The BPAC’s warrant article for the March 2021 town election has been established as Article 32.

ARTICLE 32: Establish and fund CRF for Amherst Multimodal Facilities

Shall the Town vote to establish an Amherst Multimodal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of design and construction of projects and provide matching funds for grants for such projects, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in this

*fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Tax Impact = \$0.04)
(Majority vote required)*

- The Board of Selectmen and the Ways & Means committee have both voted unanimously to support this article
- Committee needs to finalize plan for communicating the content of the article to voters

IV. Other Initiatives

A. Souhegan Valley Rail Trail

Organization officially formed, meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm. CSX has announced intention to purchase Pan American Railway's real estate holdings, including Hillsborough Branch rail line. The US Surface Transportation Board has regulatory authority over this transaction and will be soliciting public input. Efforts underway to negotiate with CSX about the inclusion of a rail trail within the right of way are to begin shortly, and to appeal to the Surface Transportation Board to consider this effort in the details of the sale.

B. Amherst Street Sidepath

No updates

C. Eversource Trail

No updates

D. Old Manchester Road

No updates

E. "Public Trails on Private Land" effort

No updates

V. NHDOT Statewide Ped-Bike Plan

NHDOT has chosen to include several proposed multimodal routes in Amherst into their upcoming statewide Ped-Bike Plan, including:

- Parts of the B&M Trail
- NH 122 Sidepath (Effort from SB707 in 2020 to build Sidepath along NH 122 from Amherst Village to Hollis-Brookline High School)
- Amherst Street Sidepath (extensions into Milford and to Birch Park)
- A sidepath that connects to Bedford in the NH 101 corridor
- Souhegan Valley Rail Trail

VI. Other Updates

- John Harvey – Presentation on Discretionary Easements and presentation on Canoe Port Driveway
- "No Bicycles" sign on Meadowview Cemetery

VII. Approval of Minutes

- December Minutes