



Amherst Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Agenda

September 15th, 2020 - 7:30 pm

I. Meeting Venue

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/84327781006?pwd=emY0akQ0Uk1zK21OdnhNTkRPQlFRQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 2778 1006

Passcode: 03031

OR

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

II. Meeting Schedule

This meeting was originally scheduled for September 8, 2020 but was rescheduled to September 15th, 2020 at 7:30 pm

III. Public Trails on Private Land

Meeting with Amherst Land Trust to discuss public trail easements

IV. Presentation to Board of Selectmen

Chris Buchanan presented at BOS on 8/24 to discuss project updates, action required for requests of NH DOT (see “town requests for NH DOT” below), and initiate dialogue about longer term funding methods. BPAC was thanked for continued hard work and efforts to find economical ways of funding projects. BPAC also asked to develop a strategic plan and incorporate funding into CIP process.

V. Souhegan Valley Rail Trail

Upcoming Regional Complete Streets Advisory Committee (Nashua Regional Planning Commission) will see the formation of a “Friends of the Souhegan Valley Rail Trail” organization. Interested parties can attend the meeting at Tuesday 9/15 at 1pm.

NRPC CSAC Tuesday 9/15 at 1pm meeting invite here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86729285347?pwd=NWFkE5ZdWZvVGpvcEo5d0ltZGFxdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 2928 5347

Passcode: 481115

This group is currently recruiting any who are interested in joining and helping, especially seeking anybody with experience in rail trails, railroads, grant writing, accounting, law, fundraising, and/or other fields that could be useful for the pursuit of this project. Consider joining and/or helping recruit!

VI. Project Status

A. Boston Post Road Sidepath (Proposal)

Proposal started, need to determine scope and funding schedule. Estimated cost of surveying & monumenting attained, approximately \$6,000. Cost of water crossing? Other costs? Funding?

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

C. Coordination with Milford for Amherst Street

Construction likely to begin 2021, Milford wants to coordinate with Amherst about design. How best to promote consistency in design across the border?

D. Town requests for NH DOT

- NH 122 restriping - voted on by BOS
- Birch Park Trail - voted on by BOS
- Midblock Crossing (NH 122) – only proposed, would require highway safety committee approval and BOS approval

E. Old Manchester Road

George Bower & DPW Director Eric Hahn met to discuss prospect of “edge lane road” aka “advisory shoulder” scheme for Old Manchester Road. George Bower working on written analysis of the project. Next step proposed is discussion with Highway Safety Committee and send out mailer to residents.

VII. NH DOT 10-Year Plan

Natasha Kypfer, Town Planner, of the Office of Community Development is coordinating the Town’s potential submission of proposed updates to the NH DOT Ten Year Plan for the NRPC. Several phases of the B&M Rail Trail project were in Amherst’s previous submission. NH DOT Ten Year Plan projects require 20% contribution from the town.

VIII. Grant and other Funding Opportunities

- Federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant is a major opportunity for the town to apply for funding. Awarded projects are subject to Governor and Executive Council approval and require a minimum 20% local match in funding. In 2018 (last round of this grant, it occurs every other year), \$5.7 million in funding for 9 NH towns. No deadline announced yet but typically occurs in the fall.
<https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/tap/index.htm>
- When TAP is open, what projects should be pursued? How could a 20% match be raised?

IX. Communications Update

Wendy, Simon, Patrick - Facebook, Amherst Citizen

X. Membership Updates

G. Wesley Robertson has submitted his resignation from the committee as he is moving out of town

XI. Other Updates

- Craig Fraley looking into reusing bicycle/pedestrian bridges as Keene is doing with Londonderry
- Other Updates from DPW

XII. Approval of Minutes