

Hanover Bike/Ped Committee Minutes of September 9, 2016

Present: Bill Young, Dave Dostal, Peter Clark, Hugh Mellert, Scott Hunt, Barbara McIlroy, Joanna Whitcomb

Guests: Jack Wilson, Jan Assmus, Joan Weider, Jeff and Jack Loew, John & Jill Schiffman, Kathie & Clyde Barbour

1. Public Input – Advisory Lanes

Chair summarized the process, surveys, traffic counts, public input and current status. Valley and Rip Roads were repaved summer 2016. The HPD, DPW and town are evaluating all information including extensive traffic counts, survey data from neighbors, the Bike Ped Master Plan, Safe Routes to Schools document, HBPC advice and public input. They will decide if the Advisory Lines will be repainted.

Valley Road - Jack Wilson presented his views on Advisory Lanes for Valley Road (see attachment). He also presented data that suggests that no signs and no lines on roads are good means of traffic calming. His reasons include aesthetics and opinion that more lines and signs lead to faster traffic. Jan Assmus observed that more drivers stay in the middle now when passing walkers and it feels less safe. This was also noted in HBPC Summary Report after third traffic count. Jan Assmus, 2 Conant Road, did not receive the surveys or follow up and these will be sent to her.

Rip Road – Five (or seven) residents objected to proposed Advisory Lines. The Chair summarized the current situation. Jill Schiffman reported on history. Sidewalks are not an option due to terrain and right of way. Drivers, walkers, bikers and runners are usually good but can behave badly: running in groups, speeding etc. Others opined that Rip is challenging, requested additional professional assessment and judged that advisory lanes were not the best solution.

The Chair reported that Rip neighbors are giving mixed messages. Many requested changes to improve safe travel to school and for pedestrians. Lyn Swett Miller, a Rip resident, attended several bike/ped committee meetings, conducted a neighborhood survey, did a traffic count and reported all this to neighbors. The recommended improvement options included no lines (normally double yellow) or advisory lines. This was communicated to the neighborhood, DPW and HPD. The residents today disagree. It was unclear to the HBPC if they judge Rip Road to be safe for all users now including school age walkers and bicyclists. They did recommend options of more signs, speed feed back signs, speed tables and collecting more data.

Follow-up suggestions from HBPC include:

1. Chair will send Valley surveys and reports to Jan Assmus.
2. Encouraged Valley Road and Rip Road residents to provide HBPC with email list or to assist us in communicating by forwarding reports.

3. Encouraged Valley and Rip residents to communicate with neighbors, form consensus and recruit a representative to work with the HBPC.

An HBPC goal is to make bicycling and pedestrian activities as attractive and safe as possible to the widest range of users including children. Compromises are common.

2. **Minutes** - Bill summarized the minutes of June meeting and briefly discussed. Scott moved to approve, Dave second and approved.

3. **Volunteers** were solicited for HBPC officers. Nominating slate is Bill Young for Chair and Dave Dostal for Vice Chair. Scott moved and Barbara seconded the slate. It was unanimously approved. Joanna agreed to be secretary when present and the rest of the time we would assign the task.

4. **Bike Friendly Application** was discussed. There is a Survey Monkey requesting additional information that we agreed to send to Hanover Parks & Recreation, FLIP and select neighborhood list serve. All HBPC members were encouraged to respond.

5. **Instructor Training Session** - Scott will attend the October 7, 8 & 9 Concord Training Session to become an official bike safety trainer. This will permit Hanover and Dartmouth to conduct Traffic Safety 101 Courses (TW 101)

6. **Safety and Security** – Hanover PD is putting a bike unit back into place in May. Dartmouth and HPD will work together to better address safety. Scott feels this will be key for education and enforcement. Coordination of the HPD and Dartmouth efforts. There needs to be a philosophical change in how we address cycling on sidewalks.

7. **Wellness and Safety Group at Dartmouth** suggested we do something on Homecoming as well as Green Key. They offered \$200 to help purchase reflective bands.

8. **Hemlock Road** sidewalk work is almost complete. Rip Road and Valley Road advisory lanes are being evaluated by HDPW and HPD. These august groups will make a recommendation to the Selectboard at a public hearing.

9. **Route 120 discussion** – looking at a temporary lane drop to test the idea of a mixed use path from Greensboro Road to Medical Center Drive. This could be an excellent opportunity to provide a long-term solution to Hanover-DHMC connection should the pilot be a success. Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for September when conceptual designs will be presented and public meeting. NH DOT must approve the lane drop pilot proposal and this is the hold up.

10. **Cross Town Mixed Use Path Proposal.** Bill distributed a draft map suggesting one alternative off road route from the Park Street-Lebanon Street (Food Co-Op) corner, across Chase Field to the hockey rink, through the Valley Road neighborhood to Verona, and Girl Brook to the schools and then to Kendal. Dartmouth and the town are the major

stake holders. Many pieces are already in place including common short cuts or paths. Bill recommends exploring the feasibility of connecting the links to have an attractive north south greenway MUP from one end of town to the other. Discussion was tabled.

Next HBPC meeting is October 6, 2016 from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Howe.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Young & Joanna Whitcomb

Attachments – Chair’s Letter & Jack Wilson’s re **HBPC Chair’s Letter of September 1, 2016**

HBPC Chairs 2016 Chairs Letter- September

Welcome back.

HBPC Members: Thanks for the good work the past year. The Hanover web site lists all of us as HBPC members: David Dostal, Scot Drysdale, Barbara McIlroy, Hugh Mellert, Joanna Whitcomb, Erica Wyonic, Bill Young, Scott Hunt, John Leigh, Jonathan Schwartz, Peter Clark, Carolyn Radisch (consultant).

Please let me know if you can continue. We need you.

House Keeping:

Meeting Time. Is 4:30 to 6:00 OK? One hour meetings felt too short last year.

Work groups - Project leaders and work groups were effective last year: Route 120, Bike Friendly Community, Rodeo, TS101, etc. What projects do you want to lead?

Communication- HBPC email list will be the main system. Hanover web site for minutes, Master Plan, Safe Routes to School, and key Reports. Facebook. Please visit and add information.

<https://www.facebook.com/HanoverBicycleAndPedestrianCommittee/>

DPW Meetings - Peter Kulbacki meets with HBPC representatives every one-two months. These are valuable and will continue. Hanover Police and Dartmouth Security are also in the advisory loop.

Updates

- Route 120 Work Group Report-Attachment: DPW and GPI Consultants collected extensive traffic data and reviewed proposals with NH DOT (6/28). The sidewalk and/or possible lane drop and MUP were not shot down. Additional data collection, consultation with regional NH DOT engineers, planning board and construction time line discussions are needed (7/26).
- Bike Friendly Community application- Thanks Tim. Decision November. Public Input Survey was sent to all HBPC members. Complete by 9/15. Additional options: FLIP, Parks and Rec, Lebanon Parks and Rec

- Bike Friendly University application- Thanks Scott, Joanna and Douwe Wieberdink.
- Instructor Training for League of American Bicyclist Course cancelled. Scott Hunt will attend Concord course in October. Funding from town.
- Dartmouth Education:
 - Safety Event Report May–HBPC and Wellness Center Attachment
 - Expo- Sept 6 -2-4PM. Leverone. HBPC Volunteers welcome.



- Home Coming Oct 28-29 – Repeat Safety Event proposal from Dartmouth Wellness. Reflective bands, Jay Walk Anonymous, etc. HBPC advised NOT doing this.
- HBPC, Safety Security and Police On Street Encouragment: avuncular compliments and scolding, Vox bulletins, Letters
- Zagster Bike Rental Dedication 10 AM 9/6 @ Mobility Hub



- Advisory Lanes Valley Road-
 - Repaved. DPW and Police reviewing quantitative road and will decide regarding repainting. One public input letter to DPW and town requested not repainting them.
 - Valley Road Case Study in National Highway Report-Attachment
 - Anticipate more public input.
- Rip Road Improvements -Advisory lanes, other, or no change.
 - Repaved. DPW and Police are reviewing data. Neighbors counted traffic, surveyed residents and are requesting improvements.

- Letters to Town Manager and DPW for and against. Anticipate more public input.
- School Day #1 Count @ Park Street, Lyme Road Light.
Children walking and biking get it. The light and MUP work. Attachment.
- DPW Update from Mike Chase
 - Cross Walk Lights-Lebanon Street at Black Arts to C and A Pizza. The HBPC requested this.
 - LED Lights on Signs – Wheelock at traffic refuge/mobility center.
 - College and Wheelock- 5 Tip downs were upgraded for wheelchairs etc. Hood construction will alter crossing.
 - Crosby Street repaved- Mid-block crossing will be repainted. Scofflaws are common but traffic fortunately is slow. There is not enough room for bicycle sharrows due to parked cars.
 - Crosby and Lebanon- Cross walk and signage improvements coming
- Projects and Priority Proposals for 2016
 - Route 120 MUP Feasibility Study- Report and implement.
 - Scoping Study proposal for cross town north/south off road Mixed Use Path: Chase Field, Valley Road Extension, Verona, Girl Brook, Ray and Richmond Schools. Connecting the links.
 - Scoping Study proposal for Lyme MUP extension from Reservoir Road circle to Kendal

Sincerely
Bill Young

Next Meeting
Thursday, October 6 4:30 to 6:00