

Hanover Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (HBPC)

Report for 2009

The HBPC is an advisory committee to the Hanover Select Board. The committee works to improve biking and pedestrian opportunities in Hanover. It meets the first Thursday of the month at 4 pm at the Howe Library. The public is encouraged to attend.

This year the HBPC worked on a number of exciting pedestrian and bicycle projects. We held a successful Walk/Bike to School day in October. Working with Peter Kulbacki, the Director of Public Works, and the Hanover Improvement Society, the committee initiated two contracts to develop bicycle guidelines and a Hanover bike map.

The first contract was a collaboration with Carolyn Radisch PE of the Office of Robert White to create guidelines for bike facilities in downtown Hanover. Bike lane dimensions, guidelines for bulb-outs (also called bump outs), and on-road "shared use" or "sharrow" emblem were described. These guidelines were presented to the Select and Planning Boards for incorporation into future town planning. A bike route plan for downtown was also developed/proposed.

Secondly, a bicycle map contract was signed with Chris Lowe. Chris is a geographic information specialist, an avid cyclist, and has done similar projects for other Upper Valley communities. The digital bike map will be compatible with Google Earth maps. It will provide multiple layers of information including bike routes, road conditions along those routes, information about recreational and town facilities, and about other venues of interest to cyclists.

With Select Board approval, the committee submitted an application to become a "Bicycle Friendly Community" to the League of American Bicyclists. The program has five key components: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation/planning. Part 2 of the BFC application will be filed later this year.

Ongoing work includes advocating for pedestrians and cyclists during the development review process and planning efforts, as well as informing state and town officials of unsafe road and sidewalk conditions. In 2009-10, the committee plans to continue its work on guidelines for bicycle facilities, conduct a town-wide bike/pedestrian attitude survey, develop an HBPC website and blog, and hold educational workshops. We encourage your involvement.

Committee Members: Hugh Mellert (Chair), Tim Cox, Doug Deaett, Scot Drysdale, Tom Linell, Roger Lohr, Matthew Marshall, Bob Norman, Carol Perera Weingeist, Joanna Whitcomb, Bill Young, Charles R. Sullivan, Ex Officio, Athos Rassias, Selectboard Representative