Minutes Bicycles, Walkways & Trails Committee Meeting

Thursday December 16, 2021 6:00 pm

Katie Haley Ray Ryan Holly Foster Therese Mergen

Mergen called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

Foster made a motion to appoint Mergen as committee chair, second by Ryan, all in favor.

Haley provided an overview of Smith Street sidewalk project; BWT Committee made recommendation to Select Board with that connector sidewalk to be top priority, Select Board agreed, Haley is working with SMPDC who will apply for a Northern Border grant on Towns behalf, Town engineer is working on complete design with the notion that if the grant is not received, then the project will still be completed in a phased approach.

This led to a discussion about available grants and the process for grant applications. Mergen expressed interest in working on grants.

Mergen noted the library’s effort to obtain a grant to start and outdoor lending library and thinks there may be opportunities for partnering on some education programs. Haley encouraged this.

Mergen asked about other potential projects. Ryan suggested an effort to promote the biking in North Fryeburg. There was a discussion about formalizing a parking area at the existing park by the Saco Valley Fire Station and Haley noted that Abby King had done some work to list biking routes on various websites. Haley will forward those links and will do some more investigation about parking and putting those bike route links on town website.

There was a discussion about mountain biking trails and the potential of promoting them. The need for landowner agreements is needed and there was a consensus that this would be a good future project. This led to discussion about ATV trails.

Mergen commented that it would be helpful to know what residents want to see for projects. A survey was discussion and the methods of distributing the survey. Mergen will work on a survey that can be distributed via local papers and social media.

Bike rack locations (or lack of) throughout town were discussed. The need for bike racks at various locations was noted. Areas were suggested and it was decided that some research on bike rack costs would be completed and a list of locations would be compiled for future discussion.

Bike racks and specific pedestrian facilities at and around the fairgrounds was discussed.

Mergen brought up the potential of being deemed a “bike friendly” town and will look into the specifics of obtaining a designation.

Haley brought up the impending budget process and urged the committee to consider spending the allotted $1,000 before July and to decide how much to request this coming year.

The next meeting will be January 20th and the goal will be to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Meeting adjourned.

Action items:

Share grant lists: Holly to share grant info she has

Find published bike routes and post on town website: Katie

Create survey: Therese

Ask HarMac about potential of building/donating bike racks: Ray

List of potential bike rack locations: Everyone