

2016 09 08 Minutes Bike & Pedestrian Alliance of Clinton

Eliot House, Thursday, September 8, 2016, 7:30 pm

Debbie Lundgren, Carrie Allen, Paul Egan, Ginny Simmons, Hal Tzeutschler, Maureen Noonan in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:48 pm by Debbie Lundgren.

Minutes were reviewed. Carrie moved to accept the minutes, Ginny seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

\$3000 worth of signs have been ordered by Pete Neff for our three highest priority routes: Liberty-Glenwood-to-Iron Works; Iron Works to Killingworth border, including loop around Ben Merrill-James Vincent-Kelseytown Bridge-Kelseytown; North High-Cow Hill to Killingworth border.

BPAC, along with Pete Neff, will present a proposal at the September 13, 7 pm, Park & Rec Commission meeting to build the Indian River footbridge at the 2nd bridge site, where the river is only 18' wide. P & R already gave their support for the footbridge at the July, 2015 meeting. At the Sept., 2016 meeting, BPAC will simply present the new site survey drawn up by Art Barden and ask for approval to build at the new, narrower bridge site. We still need to decide on a bridge design and materials – whether to use wood or composite deck material. The design will not require footings.

Carrie and Debbie met with Lynn Pinder for help in setting up a 501 (c)(3) to accept donations for the footbridge. Lynn gave us two plausible options – use the 501 (c)(3) short form, which would require setting up a corporation and paying fees of several hundred dollars; or checking with John Allen to see if we could use the Clinton Placemakers to set up our tax-deductible account. Carrie spoke with John Allen, who felt that our needs could be met with the Placemakers. Carrie will meet with John when he returns from vacation to work out the details and see if this will work for us.

Members of the Shoreline Greenway attended our August 10 meeting to discuss how to get started with the Clinton Greenway. They invited BPAC to attend their August Board of Directors meeting. Debbie, Carrie, Maureen and Paul attended that meeting, at which time the Shoreline Greenway suggested that Clinton go forward with its own plans for now, starting with the 'lowest hanging fruit.' They suggested that we check with RiverCOG to see if there is any grant money we can apply for. The board will vote on whether to add Clinton to the official Shoreline Greenway organization at a later date. Carrie contacted Pete Richards, whose family owns large parcels of land along the shoreline. Pete was very receptive to the idea of the Clinton Greenway following old trolley lines through his family's property and possibly also going through open space land adjacent to the Hammocks development. He will take us for a tour along the trolley lines when he returns from vacation at the end of September.

Hal spoke to a friend, Steve Byrne, in Portland, who was instrumental in getting three miles of the Airline Trail extended through Portland. Hal will invite Steve to our October meeting.

BPAC did not attend to the Aug. 1 P & Z meeting regarding the CVS drive-through because, since the required notices had not been posted, no action on the CVS could be taken. However, Carrie and Debbie did attend the Train Station Committee meeting at 5:30 pm, Sept. 8, at the Community Room in the

Police Station. At that meeting, possible uses of the Hull Street-to-John Street block were discussed, as well as the Richards' property along Route 1 on the western side of town. Transit-oriented development (TOD) was discussed, along with the need for 400-500 parking spaces for the new train station. Because Clinton's new police chief was so pro bike/ped issues, it was suggested that we invite him to a future BPAC meeting to discuss ways to work together.

Paul described the train station at Kingston, Rhode Island, with its multi-level parking adjacent to shopping, restaurants, etc. Debbie volunteered to email the Train Station Committee, suggesting that they look at the Kingston site, since they are looking at ideas for TOD.

Carrie, Hal and Debbie volunteered to help out at the 2016 International Walk to School Day event (IWTSD) on Wednesday, October 5th. Specific details will be mailed out as soon as they are finalized. Ginny expressed concern that the IWTSD event did not really promote children walking to school – it is purely symbolic and simply moves the traffic of parents dropping kids off from the school yard to the IWTSD staging areas for one day of the year. The frustration of not making any progress in students actually walking to school was discussed. BPAC may reconsider whether to continue promoting this event in the future.

A final vote was taken on ConnPIRG's request for support for their letter opposing Malloy's plan to widen I-95. Carrie, Hal, and Bill had voted in favor of the letter via email, and Maureen and Ginny voted in favor at the meeting. Paul and Mark (via email) abstained from voting. So the measure passed, and BPAC will sign ConnPIRG's letter to Malloy in opposition to widening I-95 and in favor of fixing existing roads and bridges and investing more money in rail lines, buses, carpooling and bike/ped infrastructure.

New Business:

Because the Harbor Management Commission was in the middle of their meeting at 7:30 pm, when our meeting was scheduled to begin, Debbie agreed to confirm the times entered into the town calendar, to make sure that the Harbor group was scheduled for 6:30 – 7:30 and BPAC for 7:30 – 8:30 pm.

Comments were requested on BPAC's draft annual report, which had been emailed to members. Because only one member had read the report, the review period was extended for another week. Any suggestions will be emailed to Debbie. The report must be submitted by the end of September.

The rumor of a possible change of plans for the old Morgan School site, from multi-use to big-box store, was briefly discussed and then tabled until we have more information.

Debbie asked for suggestions on how to take advantage of a possible small grant (up to \$3000) available through the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. The general consensus was that we should apply for money to buy the materials for the footbridge. The grant application, which we just learned about, is due on September 15. So Debbie will fill it out and submit it by Thursday.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting, Hal seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes were submitted by Debbie Lundgren.