

2016 10 13 Minutes Bike & Pedestrian Alliance of Clinton

Eliot House, Thursday, October 13, 2016, 7:30 pm

Debbie Lundgren, Carrie Allen, Paul Egan, Hal Tzeutschler, Maureen Noonan, Mark Koschwitz and guest Steve Byrne in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Debbie Lundgren.

Guest:

Steve Byrne provided some pointers for getting started developing a greenway, based on his experience working on an extension of the Airline Trail through Portland:

- First they created an Airline Steering Committee, which included the First Selectman.
- Portland funded a \$10,000 engineering study for the Airline trail. Anchor Engineering did the study.
- They then applied for and were awarded a \$680,000 DEEP grant to build a portion of the trail. Lori Giannoni was their main contact person at DEEP. Trail connectivity was stressed and was considered an important factor in receiving the grant.
- They formed a collaboration with Eversource to utilize some of its land for the trail.
- Engaging the local community and their state reps was a crucial step in the process.
- Steve will provide us with a copy of the support letter they received from Eversource.

Old Business:

Paul moved to accept the minutes from 9-8-16, Hal seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Hal, Carrie and Debbie reported on the IWTS event for Pierson, Eliot and Joel, respectively. Everyone reported a good turnout and an enthusiastic crowd. Hal was impressed by Principal Angela Guarascio and the P.E. teacher at Pierson, who led the students in pre-walk warm-up calisthenics at 7:15 am.

DPW now has the bike route and share the road signs, but there are not enough workers right now to get the signs up. Pete is hoping to get them up before winter, but warned that they might not go up until spring.

Carrie, Debbie and Pete Neff submitted an application for the Indian River footbridge at the October Inland Wetlands Commission meeting. A site walk was scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 am, on Cream Pot Road. A hearing on the issue will be held at 6:45 pm on November 1, in the Green Room at Town Hall. All BPAC members are urged to attend. Maureen suggested that we post a notice of the hearing on our Facebook page, and Mark volunteered to post it on his Facebook page, as well.

Carrie and Debbie attended the Clinton Placemakers' meeting to request that we be allowed to use their tax-deductible 501(c)(3) account to collect donations for the footbridge. They will discuss the issue further and get back to us with their decision.

Carrie contacted Peter Richards after he returned from vacation. She will keep checking back with him to set up a time for the bike tour of the old trolley lines and other ideas he has for a greenway route through his property.

Debbie reported that she was unable to complete the application for the small grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County because there wasn't time to get all the necessary permissions.

ConnPIRG added our name to its list of supporters for their letter opposing Malloy's plan to widen I-95. ConnPIRG is in favor of fixing existing roads and bridges and investing more money in rail lines, buses, carpooling and bike/ped infrastructure. They will let us know when they need our help in contacting our state reps and Gov. Malloy on this issue.

New Business:

Carrie provided a brief summary of the Complete Streets program, which dictates that every transportation project consider all modes of transportation. She asked that we read through the information she emailed to each of us for more details. BPAC has always supported the Complete Streets concept, but if the Town of Clinton formally adopts a Complete Streets plan, then grant money is available to us. New Britain is Connecticut's flagship Complete Street city, largely due to its town engineer, who is an avid bicyclist. As a first step in leading Clinton in that direction, BPAC needs to approach the Board of Selectmen to request that Clinton adopt a Complete Streets plan.

Carrie presented an idea that would provide some ceremony and publicity around the addition of bike/ped signage to our local roads, once the signage goes up. She suggested sponsoring a group ride for Eliot students, starting with a bike safety presentation by our local bicycle policeman, Corporal Craig Lee, followed by a group ride along the signed roads, possibly escorted by Clinton's bicycle police. We could also ask Lesia from Harbor News to cover the event.

Carrie will invite Clinton Police Chief DeMaio to attend the next BPAC meeting to discuss ways that BPAC can work with the CPD to help make our town safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. Based on comments that Chief DeMaio made at the Train Station Ad Hoc Committee meeting, he seems to be an advocate for people on foot and on bicycles.

Because the Harbor Management Commission sometimes requires additional time beyond 7:30 pm for its Thursday night meetings, Joan (from the 1st Selectman's office) asked if we could change our meeting night or location. Everyone would like to retain the meeting date, so Debbie will look into a different room to meet in.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Minutes were submitted by Debbie Lundgren.