

2017 02 16 BPAC Committee Minutes

Maureen Noonan, Bill Appleby, Carrie Allen, Debbie Lundgren present.

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

Old Business:

- Review of minutes: Maureen moved to approve minutes from January meeting; Bill seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- Doppelt Grant: At the end of January, Carrie submitted the application for \$5000-\$10000 in funds to develop the Clinton Greenway proposal. Grants will be awarded in June.
- Clinton Greenway: Carrie has scheduled a public presentation at the HCH Library on Monday, Feb. 27, 7 – 8 pm (set-up at 6 pm). It is important to mobilize supporters to attend this meeting so that a small group of homeowners who are vehemently opposed to the greenway passing over open space adjacent to their property will not be able to overwhelm the presentation. Details of the public forum will be posted on facebook, as will a link to an online petition in support of the trail. A hard copy of the petition, asking for names and email addresses, will also be circulated at the forum.
- Indian River Bridge: There will be a meeting next week between BPAC, Pete Neff and Charles Brown (design engineer) to finalize design plans.
- Fundraising for the footbridge: Once the design is finalized, we can get an estimate of the cost of materials and see how much more money is needed.
- Bike/Ped Sidewalk Issue: Several points of view were presented. Hal emailed his thoughts – to allow shared use of the sidewalks with well-defined rules, such as max speed of 5 mph or so; priority to pedestrians; signage reminding users of rules; future infrastructure improvements (eg., Rt 1 sidewalk) should accommodate multiple uses. Debbie presented Madison's Motor Vehicle and Traffic Regulations concerning bicycles on sidewalks – bicycles are prohibited on sidewalks specifically in the business district, a strictly-defined area between two major intersections on Rt 1. Carrie favored shared use of sidewalks; Bill was concerned about the safety of pedestrians with bicyclists travelling too fast on the sidewalks. It was suggested that we discuss the issue with Chief DeMaio and with the business owners along the stretch of Main Street where businesses open right onto the sidewalk. It was further suggested that the proposed Westbrook-to-Madison sidewalk be multi-use. Carrie offered to email Bruce Farmer, requesting that BPAC have input into the Rt 1 sidewalk design.

New Business:

- Rt 81 Corridor Study: RiverCOG's request for a consulting firm to conduct a transportation planning study on Rt 81 in Clinton was discussed. The study will incorporate a 'Complete Streets' strategy that is friendly to pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles, with the goal of reducing congestion and increasing safety. Debbie will contact RiverCOG, requesting that a BPAC member be seated on the Study Advisory Committee to help guide the study.
- CRAHD: BPAC received an email from Daisy Hernandez, health educator at the CT River Area Health District, who is interested in working with BPAC to promote the health benefits of safe, active transportation and daily physical activity. We have extended to her an invitation to attend a future BPAC meeting to explore ways we can work together for a common goal.

Bill moved to adjourn; Carrie seconded; motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Minutes submitted by Debbie Lundgren