

Newburyport Livable Streets
Meet-Up / Discussion
April 2, 2018 – 7:00-8:45 pm
Newburyport Public Library – Children's Activity Room

I. Attendance: Rick Taintor, Sheila Taintor, Kitty Krajci, Alex Dardinski, Kate Dardinski, Nolan Elliott, Conrad Willeman, Elizabeth Marcus, Graham Smith, Judy Tymon, Jim McCarthy, Liam Smith, Tyler Cowles, Christine Wallace, Greg Whitney, Chuck Eaton, and Juliet Walker

II. Welcome to new attendees: Nolan, Graham, Tyler and Liam (Nock Middle School), Greg and Chuck (Newburyport Police), Kate, Neil, and Jim.

III. Events / Activities

- A. Bike Swap – Elizabeth will check on table for Coastal Trails for our bike to school / rodeo fliers and Newburyport Livable Streets information and will send a note around for volunteers from this group.
- B. Bike to School Day – Kate met with Gary to begin planning. The Bresnahan School is planning to be involved. The idea is to have meetups in various spots (e.g., Atkinson, Cushing, etc.). Looking for volunteers. Sheila will contact the secretary at the Molin school. Greg said that he could get an officer on a mountain bike to assist. Alex and Kate will prepare a map with bike routes.
- C. Bike Rodeo – Sheila updated the group on progress. Sheila, Rick and Mary McDonald have been meeting regularly on plans for the rodeo. Judy Crocker, Outreach Coordinator from the MassDOT Safe Routes to School Program, has enthusiastically joined them and has offered to do a lot. She will bring equipment including chalk, cones, signs, a trivia wheel, and prizes for the kids, and will lead a number of the activities (with NLS volunteer assistance). DPS will provide additional traffic cones. The Police Department will teach the rules of the road and hand signals. Greg will share our Facebook event on the Police Department's FB page, which has 8,000 followers. Rick will send Greg a PDF of the flyer. Police will bring small handouts for participants. Sheila is coordinating with the schools regarding publicity. Kate will send Rick a write-up about Bike to School Day to be included in the Bike Rodeo press release.
- D. Open Streets – Judy discussed coordinating this event with the opening of the new rail trail, which may happen this fall. Alex suggested connecting the two events at the Purchase Street crossing. Alex noted that we should review and incorporate feedback from the neighbors regarding the previous Open Streets. Elizabeth noted that the Documentary Film Festival is September 14-16 and that we may want to avoid that weekend.

IV. Ongoing Initiatives

- A. Complete Streets – There was discussion about the need for the City to select a consultant very soon in order to complete the prioritization plan by the September deadline. Christine will contact Wayne, and Rick will contact Andy and Greg to offer our services to help move this forward.
- B. Rail Trail Phase 3 – Jim spoke about efforts to connect across the rotary. The City has requested Community Preservation Act funding for design to get across State Street and the Rotary safely.
- C. Hale Street – Alex reported on the Task Force meeting that he attended, along with Gary, Jon-Eric White, Mayor Holaday, Tony Furnari, and Joe Teixeira, among others. The Mayor is committed to getting a connection to the West End. There don't seem to be any serious wetland obstacles. There is enough space to provide two 12' travel lanes, two bike lanes, and two 5' sidewalks. During the meeting a third option emerged that would provide a 10' shared-use path, protected by a guardrail, on the north side of Hale Street for its entire length. The design challenge is to deal with breaks in the guardrail for driveways and streets. Jim McCarthy urged that the design be attractive and hopefully something better than a steel guardrail. Alex said that there is sensitivity to aesthetics among those involved.
- D. High Street Safe Routes to School project – Rick reported on the site walk that he participated in with Wayne, Jon-Eric, Andy and Greg. The staff is looking carefully at the design both to maximize pedestrian safety and to make sure that the plan incorporates long-range needs (including significantly lowering the elevation of High Street) and City policies (such as continuing sidewalks across driveways rather than interrupting them with changes in materials and elevations).
- E. Merrimac St Safety Initiative – There was discussion about the Parks Department's request for \$25,000 in CPA funding for a master plan for lower Atkinson and the potential for coordination with the Merrimac Street improvements.

V. Other

- A. Nolan, Graham, Tyler and Liam talked about their project to learn about Complete Streets. They are interested in bike lanes and sidewalks. We are excited by their interest and encouraged them to continue coming to our meetings.

VI. Social Media Updates

- A. Instagram – Juliet will set up an account.

- B. MailChimp – Juliet will set up a MailChimp account to handle mailings. This will make it easier for people to subscribe and unsubscribe. She will look into a text messaging option.
- C. Web Page – Elizabeth is setting up a web site in WordPress with our own domain name.

VII. Next meeting – A Tuesday in May, to be determined based on room availability. It was agreed that the Children’s Activity Room is a good location, and Sheila will contact the Library to secure dates.