

Newburyport Livable Streets  
June 26, 2018 – 7:00-8:45 PM  
Newburyport Public Library – Children’s Activity Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Sheila Taintor, Kitty Krajci, Mary McDonald, Elizabeth Marcus, Conrad Willeman, Bob Uhlig, Juliet Walker, Alex Dardinski, Rick Taintor, Judith Crocker (Massachusetts SRTS)

Open Discussion

- Discussed ideas for broader discussion and inclusiveness, and improved outreach. While many of us are interested in improving bike infrastructure, our mission is to improve conditions for all modes, including walking and transit as well as cycling. We may need to do a better job of getting that message out. It was suggested that we use NextDoor and other local social media platforms to announce our meetings; to ask for issues and concerns that we should be talking about; and to offer ourselves as a resource for street improvements, safety, etc. We also discussed incorporating the group mission statement in all of our communications.
- Mary McDonald raised the need for more/better crosswalks on Water Street between State St and the Tannery. Mary also raised the need for better/safer pedestrian crossings on the last block of Liberty Street closest to State Street. There was a discussion about the excessive width of this block of one-way street. Kitty Krajci suggested that angled parking might be a way to use that space more efficiently. Elizabeth Marcus asked whether this could be turned into a “shared street”.
- Juliet Walker asked us to consider how we can help get concerns and ideas to TSAC.
- A suggestion was made that we ask each neighborhoods or wards to propose a traffic calming project. Bob Uhlig noted that this would be a good awareness project to help us think outside the downtown. Elizabeth Marcus suggested holding listening sessions in each ward. Burlington and Boston were suggested as examples of programs that invite community suggestions for traffic calming projects.
- Judy Crocker presented Newburyport Livable Streets with an Honorable Mention award from the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program. She also announced that the Molin School has been designated a Silver Partner as a result of its participation in the State program [Editorial Note: The kids who volunteered at the Bicycle Rodeo were from the 8th Grade Nock School Clipper Crew, not the Molin -- Juliet will follow up with Judy about that correction]. She suggested that the film made by Nock students be shown on local cable TV and posted on the NLS website. She also mentioned a safety video contest that is run by the Mass. SRTS program each year (open to high school students) and a yard sign contest that is open to grades 2-8. She will share more information with the group.

Business Items

- Rick Taintor summarized the approved budget for the \$950.00 Seed Grant that NLS has received from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. The funds will be available to spend when the checking account is set up, which should be very soon.

- Rick Taintor discussed the PeopleForBikes Community Grant program, for which a letter of interest is due on July 23.
  - PFB funds can be no more than 50% of the total project cost, and applications with a higher match are probably more competitive.
  - The applicant must be a governmental entity or a nonprofit, so we would probably partner with the City (Coastal Trails would also be a possibility). Judy Tymon has already been in touch with Nancy London, the City's Grant Writer, about this program.
  - Some ideas for the grant were discussed, including bike racks at the Library and around the City, a bike repair station, and bike racks as art (like the "books" bike rack at the Salisbury Library).
  - Other potential funding sources that we could look into include the area CHNA (Community Health Network Area) through Anna Jaques Hospital, and the Chamber.
  - Because the 7/23 deadline for a letter of interest is before our next meeting, the group approved having a working group develop a scope and budget and work with the City on the letter of interest. Juliet Walker, Rick Taintor, Conrad Willeman and Bob Uhlig volunteered to be on the working group.

### Updates

- Fall Event Ideas:
  - Rick Taintor showed the trailer for "Why We Cycle". It was agreed that more information is needed to make a decision about this film, so Rick will contact the distributor.
  - Some members wondered if there might be a film that looks at mobility from the perspective of disabled people, and Rick noted that the son of a planner in New Hampshire recently made a film about mobility for those with sight limitations. He will follow up on that.
  - Alex Dardinski suggested looking at videos from Streetfilms for ideas.
- High Street Safe Routes to School Project: There is concern about the lack of input (so far) from the Historical Commission. Juliet Walker will reach out to the MassDOT project manager and the consultant to find out about the historical review process. There is consensus that better outreach and education about the project is needed.
- Complete Streets: TEC has been selected as the consultant to develop the prioritization plan.
- Hale Street: No news.
- TSAC: There was further discussion about getting a representative (or a "liaison") from our group to the TSAC. Next meetings of TSAC are July 12 and August 9.
- Merrimac Street: Nothing new.
- Library Bike Racks: Rick Taintor and Juliet Walker provided an update. Rick prepared sketches for two options along the pathway to the front door of the Library, and two options for a portion of the Harris Street parking lot. The Library Trustees are in support of the Harris Street site but not in front of the Library. Juliet will talk to Betsy Goodrich at MVPC about discounted prices for bike racks. Rick will get back in touch with Gary Gorski about including this project in the PFB grant application.

- Open Streets: No update yet. Possibly move this to late spring 2019. Need more outreach than last time. Suggestion to coordinate this with the Complete Street prioritization plan as an awareness raising opportunity.
- Slow Roll: Alez and Juliet discussed organizing a community slow roll bike ride during the summer. A slow roll's mission would be to bring all walks of life together to enjoy a leisurely bike ride through the neighborhoods of the City. The intention of a slow roll is to pace it so that people of any ability, no matter what type of bike you ride, can participate. A great way to include families and more tentative cyclists in exploring routes through the City while also combing road safety tips while we ride.
- Other Ideas:
  - We discussed opportunities for organizing walking events. Nighttime walk event along the rail trail (like Holliston New Years Eve, Jamaica Pond, etc.). Potential coordination with the art walks or "If this House Could Talk" event.

Next Meeting -- August 7th, 7pm

Adjourn at 8:45 PM