Newburyport Livable Streets
February 5, 2019 – 7:00-8:30 PM
Newburyport Public Library – Children's Activity Room

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Juliet Walker, Rick Taintor, Sheila Taintor, Kitty Krajci, Judy Tymon, Ben Iacono, Alden Clark, Karen Holt, Jean Zabroski

Open Discussion

- We welcomed new attendees Ben, Alden, Karen and Jean.
- Ben is interested in learning about the background on our group.
  - Juliet explained that the group originated with the Safe Routes to School program (Walking and Wheeling Newburyport). Newburyport Livable Streets formally organized in early 2018 and has expanded into other aspects of making the City safer and more comfortable for bicycling and walking.
  - Members of our group have been providing input to the City on several projects, including the current High Street Safe Routes to School project, concepts for safety improvements on Merrimac Street around Pioneer Field, the City's participation in the State's Complete Streets Funding Program, bike and ped improvements along Hale Street, and the proposed redevelopment of the Waterfront West area. Members also attend meetings of the City's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.
- Karen is interested in street maintenance.
- Alden is interested in sidewalk maintenance and in the connection between the two rail trails.
  - Sheila noted that we have the updated DPS sidewalk inventory, which we agreed to post on our website.
  - Rick reported on a meeting on January 23 with Geordie Vining and members of the Coastal Trails Coalition to discuss the status of the existing Rail Trail Phase 2 project and ideas for the future "Phase 3" connection between Phase 1 and Phase 2, along Parker Street and crossing State Street and Route 1.

Complete Streets Priority Setting

- Kitty explained the process that a working group used to identify and rate potential projects around the city. We used a 5-category rating system. She distributed copies of our project prioritization.
- Juliet explained the Complete Streets concept and how we looked at projects.
- Rick has been collating our project prioritization list with the one that was developed for the City by its consultant, TEC. He noted that our effort has emphasized networks and connections while the City's list focuses on discrete projects that can be funded within the

$400,000 cap on State Complete Streets grants; as a result, our projects are more linear while the City's tend to be spots like intersections or short stretches of road. There are many overlaps between the two lists.

- Next steps are to flesh out explanations for why our ratings are different in some cases from those by the City's consultant.

Winter Sidewalk Clearing

- Juliet discussed the work that several members have been doing to identify and record locations around the City where sidewalks haven't been cleared after snow storms. She passed out copies of the Google Docs spreadsheet that we are using to record this information, and invited others to participate in this effort.
- The next step is to decide how to present this information to the City and what kind of action we would like the City to take – Targeted enforcement? Assume municipal responsibility for priority routes and areas? Other?

Project Updates

- Juliet passed out a list of planned activities and events, including Livable Streets members who are working on each item.
- Discussion of the activity and event list included the following:
  o High Street Safe Routes to School project: Juliet will reach out to Geordie and the High School about reallocation of parking spaces that will be lost as a result of the project.
  o Traffic Safety Advisory Committee: We will request to have a representative of Newburyport Livable Streets on TSAC. Rick will check on the status and notify the group if there will be a meeting.
  o Open Streets: Juliet and Judy have defined a route and will work with the City to set a date – either June 9 or June 23.

Next Meetings

- The meeting dates for the next 4 months are as follows:
  o March 5
  o April 2
  o May 7
  o June 4

Adjourn at 8:30 PM