

**Newburyport Livable Streets
Monthly Meeting
January 7, 2020 – 7:00 to 8:45 pm
Newburyport Public Library – Program Room**

Mission Statement

Newburyport Livable Streets seeks to support and improve the health and well-being of our community through education and advocacy related to transportation infrastructure and policies. Our goal is to make it easier for people to bike and walk throughout Newburyport by providing a network of streets, sidewalks and trails that are accessible and comfortable to everyone regardless of age, ability, or mode of travel.

We support safe sidewalks, bike routes and neighborhood streets; off-road paths and trails; local transit; and other policies and investments that respect Newburyport's intimate scale and historic character.

Livable Streets will nurture a healthy, vibrant city that people want to live in, businesses want to invest in, and tourists want to visit.

Attendance

Juliet Walker, Gary Tirone, Ellen Tirone, Ben Iacono, Alden Clark, Kitty Kracji, Bill Clary, Art Currier, Judy Tymon, Sheila Taintor, Rick Taintor

Hale Street update – February meeting preparations

Rick Taintor provided an overview of the plans and preparations for the meeting scheduled for February 4 at the Senior / Community Center to discuss potential bicycle and pedestrian improvements for Hale Street. This is a public meeting and Jon-Eric White, the City's Engineer, will be attending to present some conceptual ideas for adding bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along Hale Street and review some of the challenges that will have to be addressed for any design to move forward (e.g. wetlands and drainage). The Mayor has invited Newburyport Livable Streets to facilitate a planning effort with the City related to this corridor. Mayor and other city officials are planning to attend as well. Group discussed some ideas for the general format of the meeting. Important to establish some broad goals at the outset also to provide examples from other areas. Rick T will be scheduling an organizing meeting and will notify anyone from NLS who is interested in assisting.

Suggestion to reach out to the Middle School students who previously video'd this corridor to see if we could use their video at the meeting.

Complete Streets

Judy and Rick provided a brief overview of the Massachusetts Complete Streets Program, which the City is participating in. City has applied for a grant for a project that would provide a connection to the rail trail along Parker Street and across State Street. Rick will follow up with City staff to inquire about status.

Judy updated the group on plans for NLS to hold a public workshop about Complete Streets principles and how they could be applied to City streets. Proposed title of the workshop is "Livable Streets -- How to Make Our Streets Safer". Judy's proposed outline is attached to these minutes for reference. Group provided some general input regarding potential content and format for the meeting. Critical to provide examples that people can see how different solutions can be used in Newburyport. Transit and equitable access for all modes of travel should be part of the presentation as well as designing our city streets and sidewalks for all ages of life (8 to 80). Workshop will be in March or April of this year with a potential field visit as well. Judy will be scheduling a planning meeting for this workshop and will notify anyone from NLS who is interested in assisting.

Traffic Calming / Pedestrian Safety

Rick and Judy provided a re-cap of the last City Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meeting. One of the concerns raised at the meeting was pedestrian safety at the crosswalk from the Parking Garage to

Horton's Yard. Group discuss there is a need for improved lighting at this location and others around the City and should be part of the City's standards for crosswalks. Group supported a review by NLS of the City's standards for streets and sidewalk design to recommend improvements and changes. Group also mentioned need for ongoing NLS input into City and private construction projects to identify opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. Juliet noted that the NLS mailing list already has an Advocacy email group established and we can use that as a mechanism for reaching out to NLS members to provide notification when opportunities arise for this type of input.

Snow clearing of sidewalks was also discussed. NLS has a database to log problem areas around the City that impact pedestrian travel. Group expressed support for suggesting some ways the City can be more proactive on enforcement of City ordinances related to sidewalk clearing and also identifying critical sidewalks that the City should take responsibility for rather than relying on residents. Blocking of crosswalks by City snowplows was also raised as an issue that the City should be proactive about resolving. Group suggested a review of the snow clearing ordinance was in order and we should work on researching what other communities do and make some suggestions to TSAC. Group noted that social media is a good way to keep the conversation going around problem areas in the City as well as to educate the public about responsibilities related to snow clearing.

Review of Other NLS Initiatives / Projects (see handout)

- Suggestion to explore a tactical urbanism (demonstration project) for traffic calming for Johnson Street.
- Mayor is supportive of NLS proposing locations for bike racks around the City.
- Group was encouraged to sign up to help with specific projects on the NLS list (see handout).

Open Discussion (attendees are invited to raise issues / concerns / ideas for consideration and discussion by the group)

- Thanks to Bill Clary for attending from the Energy Advisory Committee -- continue to explore ways to collaborate with other groups with related missions
- General support for review of City standards for street and sidewalk design and materials including lighting
- Art Currier from the Green Alliance requested that NLS do a column for the Daily News. Judy and Rick offered to work on this for February.

Next Meetings

- First Tuesday of the month (except for holidays) – 2/4, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2

Project	Livable Streets team members	Status, deadlines, next steps
High Street Safe Routes to School	Juliet W., Judy T, Rick T, Ben I	Anticipated construction Spring/Summer 2020
Complete Streets	Kitty K., Judy, Conrad W., Rick, Christine W, Bob U, Juliet, Art C.	Advocate for City to adopt processes and procedures to ensure the CS policy is being followed, continued advocacy for funding of projects. May also include proposed revisions / additions to City policies and ordinances Hold an educational workshop for the public in March / April
Hale Street Bike / Ped Improvements	Rick, Sheila T, Tracy H, Kathy M, Ben, Alden C, Judy	At Mayor’s direction, coordinate process with City and neighborhood to develop design to add bike lanes / sidewalks along Hale Street
Merrimac St Safety Initiative	Christine, Judy, Rick	Continue advocacy for design of and funding for traffic calming, sidewalks, bicycle lanes
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee	Christine, Judy, Rick	Ongoing attendance at monthly meetings
Bike Racks – Library and Beyond	Rick, Juliet, Alden C	Pursue funding, first priority Library
Neighborhood Traffic Calming / “Tactical Urbanism”	Judy, Sheila, Elizabeth M, Bob, Ben	Work with TSAC to adopt process for handling Neighborhood Traffic Calming requests (with NLS involvement) and implement some short-term demonstration projects
Open Streets / Play Streets		Potential collaboration with NYS Youth Thrive Initiative for City to adopt Play Streets Program (smaller version of OS)
Walk/Bike to School Initiatives		Work on coordinating with NYS Youth Thrive Initiative
Winter Sidewalk Clearing	Rick, Kitty, Alden, Christine, Ben	Continue tracking / reporting for Winter 2019/2020

		<p>Encourage City to improve enforcement in key locations (e.g. routes to school)</p> <p>Request City to expand sidewalks cleared by the City</p> <p>Reach out to commercial property owners along Story Ave</p> <p>Continue social media campaign and outreach</p>
Street & Sidewalk Design & Maintenance	Rick, Ben, Alden, Bill C.	<p>Review City standards for street and sidewalk design and recommend revisions and/or additions to improve safety and comfort for bicycles and pedestrians</p>
Advocacy		<p>NLS will provide alerts to members who sign up to be on the Advocacy email list when there are opportunities to provide input or attend meetings on decisions or initiatives related to improving bicycle and pedestrian transportation and safety in the City</p>

How to Make Our Streets Safer (Workshop)

DRAFT Outline

Section 1 - Introduction (Pages refer to MassDOT Guide for Walkability)

- NLS - who we are
- Why SAFER Streets - "Streets for All Users"
- Introduce "8 - 80"??
- Vision Zero film?
- Introduce concept of Complete Streets?

Why are SAFER streets important? Pages 7 -9

- Improves Health
- Promotes economic development
- Helps the environment
- Promotes equity - not everyone can afford a car

Complete Streets - what is it?

- Newburyport status re: funding, project list, etc.

Elements of Safer/Livable Communities pages 10 - 16

Newburyport has these basic elements - we need to build on these elements and improve safety

- Destinations - dense downtown, with community resources (city hall, library, etc.)
- Street and Sidewalk Layout - connected streets, short blocks, sidewalks
- Building Placement - building close to street

Section 2 - Roadways - How to make them safer

(I think we should make the point that streets can be designed for safer speeds, as opposed to simply posting speed limits and trying to enforce - Vision Zero)

- Speed Limits page 23 - 25
 - Safe Speed Limits- introduce role of speed as factor in fatalities
 - Speed Limit Regulations - explain MA laws, municipal ordinances
- Roadway Designs page 26 - 28
- Road Diets - narrow roadway/travel lanes, widen sidewalks
- Traffic Calming - show examples of neck downs, chokers, bulbs, chicanes, roundabouts, etc.
- Intersections Design page 19d
- Shared Roadways page 15-16

Section 3 - Walking - How to make walking safer

Crosswalks Page 16 - 19

- Placement
- Pavement Marking
- Signs
- Signals - Beacons, LPI, Traffic Signals
- Lighting

Sidewalks

- Design
- Materials
- Locations

Multi-Use Trails

- Safety considerations for bikers and peds

Section 4 - Biking - how to make biking safer (Pages refer to MassDOT Guide for Bike-ability)

Benefits of Biking page 6 - 8

- Safer streets
- Health
- Economic
- Environment

Biking as Transportation pages 11- 13

- Unrealized Potential
- How to attract Riders of all ages (8 - 80)
- Creating Bike Networks
- Identify existing bike facilities in Nbpt - maybe with a map? Include the following:
 - Rail Trail
 - Bike Lanes
 - Middle Way - North End
 - Purchase St. - South End Middle Way
 - Identify Routes to popular destinations - downtown, MB, Senior/Community Center
 - Identify potential routes

Safe Bike Design page 28 - 46

- Shared Use Paths
- Separated Bike Lanes
- Buffered Bike Lane
- Bike Boulevard
- Advisory Bike Lane
- Shared Lane Marking
- Bike Intersections
- Bike Crossings
- Bike Box
- Protected Intersection
- Bikes and Bus Stops
- Bike Signals
- Bike Parking

Section 5 - Other Topics (page references back to Resource Guide for Walkability)

Accessibility page 30 - 34

- Surfaces - brick? Concrete?
- Widths
- Cross Slopes & Running Slopes
- Curb Ramps

- Detectable Warning Surfaces
- Landing Areas
- Pedestrian Signals
- Status of Newburyport's ADA Self-Evaluation?

Snow and Ice Removal page 35, page 39, page 45 - 49

- Sidewalks - Municipal Ordinance
- Commercial Properties - Municipal Ordinance
- Intersection Corners
- Bus Stops
- School Routes

Access to Transit page 37

- Bus Service in Newburyport
- Train Service - MBTA

Maintenance & Repair page 40 - 44

- Inspection & Compliance
- Reporting Problems
- Construction Detours
- Street Sweeping
- Vegetation Management

Section 6 - Conclusion

Next Steps

- Engagement- join NLS
- On-site visit?
- Ward meetings?