

**Newburyport Livable Streets  
Meeting  
August 4, 2020 – 7:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Rick Taintor, Sheila Taintor, Juliet Walker, Kitty Krajci, Bob Uhlig, Judy Tymon, Ben Iacono, Alden Clark, Eric Tracey

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. City projects update
  - **High Street Safe Routes to School** -- Rick T and Juliet W reviewed recent changes made to the project design by the City to make the refuge islands flush with pavement instead of raised. Geordie Vining has previously provided information via email related to the decision for modifying the design which was in response to concerns and observations that the raised islands did not provide sufficient room for large trucks turning from and entering to Toppans Lane. Juliet will follow-up with Geordie for more specifics.
  - **Parker Street / State Street** -- Rick T led reported that funding has been awarded to the City to complete a rail trail connection from the terminus of the rail trail on Parker St to State St. Group also discussed the segment that is required to be completed by the recently constructed condos on Parker St that are located on the State St side of the cemetery.
  - **Merrimac Street repaving and crosswalks** -- street repaving is underway. Councilor Wallace is planning to propose addition of 3 new crosswalks on Merrimac St via a City Council order.
  - **Hale Street** -- Jon Eric White (City Engineer) was planning to submit a request for funding for a preliminary design plan for Hale St (approx \$75K) not sure what the status of that is. Rick T will follow-up.
- Review of NLS initiatives
  - **Crosswalks / Ward 4** -- NLS members has undertaken a review of a previously created City crosswalk inventory. As a pilot effort, Councilor Wallace has invited NLS to make recommendations for additional crosswalks in Ward 4 via the City Council's Public Safety Committee. NLS is recommending restoring 4 crosswalks on High Street -- at Famous Pizza/Kelleher Park (sign still exists), Myrtle Street, Woodland Street, and North Atkinson. Alden C has also completed a review of the existing crosswalks in Ward 2. Group is hoping this will lead to a broader discussion of crosswalks city-wide and potential role for NLS to make recommendations on this front in all Wards. Group reviewed the existing inventory and questioned why different locations use paint versus thermoplast for crosswalk material. Thermoplast typically lasts longer and is more durable and should generally be the standard application. General guidance is if people need to walk more than 3 minutes or 500' between crosswalks they won't use it. Group members will start identifying additional location for crosswalks in each ward starting with the existing crosswalk inventory. Group decided to post the existing crosswalk inventory on the NLS web page for general reference.
  - **Pioneer Field** -- Bob Uhlig mentioned his firm is working on a Lower Atkinson Common Master Plan for the City that will include redesigning the parking area along Pioneer Field.
  - **Bicycle Parking Master Plan** -- Group discussed moving forward with releasing a survey for bike parking. Rick T also mentioned there is funding via the MVRTA available for a potential bike rack at the library.
  - **Winter sidewalk maintenance** -- Group discussed whether to continue to do this again. What will be done with the data. Should we focus on one particular area (e.g. Storey Ave). Group agreed data should continue to be collected AND outreach to Councilors in specific areas. Judy T mentioned she would follow up with Councilor McCauley.
- Complete Streets workshop
  - On hold until we can do things in-person again.

- Designing streets and sidewalks in response to COVID
  - Juliet W reviewed NLS effort to encourage Mayor to consider improving streets in response to increased use by bike/peds during COVID. NLS has not had success with getting the Mayor and/or staff to take action on this effort to date. Group discussed potential next steps along these lines. Any lessons learned from the State Street temporary and partial closes for outdoor dining? Eric mentioned that places around the world have had success closing down streets for pedestrians. Juliet proposed pursuing the idea of “neighborhood slow streets” and restriping the High Street bike lanes. Group discussed starting with Public Safety Committee and Neighborhood City Services. Judy will discuss with Councilor McCauley and Wallace. NLS may need to re-draft the proposal sent to the Mayor. Juliet will also review with Councilor Shand.
  
- Tufts Spring 2021 Field Projects
  - Brief project description due September 8. Rick T said he would look into re-submitting a proposal to design the “Middle Way”.
  
- Other Ideas
  - Juliet W proposed looking into sponsoring a viewing of the documentary “Motherload”. She will look into and report back.
  
- Next Meeting September 15th