

Newburyport Livable Streets

September 5, 2023 – 7:00 pm
Senior Community Center

Meeting Notes

- Welcome / Introductions
 - Present: Rick Taintor, Sheila Taintor, Alden Clark, Kitty Krajci, Judy Tymon, Bob Uhlig, Owen Smith, Lisa Smith, Gary Tirone, Ellen Tirone
- Approval of August Meeting Minutes -- [NLS 2023-08-08 Meeting Notes.docx](#)
 - Bonnie moved to approve; Alden seconded; approved unanimously
- Project updates -- [090523 NLS Project Updates.docx](#)
 - Crosswalks (Alden)
 - Planning to review crosswalks starting in later September. Alden, Rick and Owen will take 2 wards each, based on new City inventory.
 - Alden will contact Wayne Amaral to get inventory as Excel file, and to find out schedule for painting this fall
 - Neighborhood Walk Audits (Juliet)
 - Next Walk Audit location will be Low Street from Toppans Lane to the Rail Trail entrance on Tuesday, September 19th during arrival and dismissal times for school(s)
 - Storey Avenue Visioning (Bonnie)
 - Project update lists goals and criteria for future projects (transportation & development) and land use regulations. Not trying to rewrite zoning – providing guidance.
 - This will be provided to Andy Port. No further action for now: we are available to help when Andy is ready to move forward.
 - Project update also includes recommendations for city-wide zoning amendments to incorporate livable streets goals and criteria
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan (Juliet)
 - No update
 - Film Night (Sheila)
 - “The Street Project” – November 12, 7:00pm, at The Screening Room
 - Motion by Bonnie, seconded by Judy, to expend \$250 for the license for the film; approved unanimously
 - Alden volunteered to manage donations at the screening. Rick will create QR code for the table.

- Bike Parking (Rick)
 - No update

- Hale Street (Rick)
 - City Council has approved \$125,000 transfer from ARPA to fund design

- Community Evening Ride (Sheila)
 - October 20 at the Refuge, with October 27 as the rain date
 - PRNWR is cosponsor
 - Supporting businesses/organizations:
 - Chococoa is providing hot cocoa; Bonnie and Ben will serve cocoa at the sub-Headquarters
 - MassBike providing rear lights.
 - Riverside Cycle will help install lights and perhaps do tune-ups.
 - Coastal Trails Coalition providing bike bells
 - Friends of the Refuge is offering an annual pass as first prize in the raffle for decorated bikes; PWNWR is giving 2 day passes
 - Publicity/outreach:
 - Poster designed by Ella and Sheila
 - Poster has link (bit.ly/refugerride) to detailed information and sign-up form
 - Info is up on several calendars: MassBike bike-friendly events, Newburyport Chamber events calendar, Newburyport resiliency calendar
 - High School principal and Interact club at the HS will encourage high school kids to participate, and also get bike lights to teens who don't participate
 - Youth Services will promote the event with the kids' families
 - We will ask parents of young children to help promote at their schools and day care centers
 - Press release – send to Daily News in advance (10 days before when you want it published)

- Open Streets (Judy)
 - Talked to Chamber President Nate Allard about doing open streets on Halloween. Issue is hiring police details. Costs \$2000-\$3000 for the car show. If City cosponsored the event the cost could be covered.
 - Judy will talk to Richard Jones about the possibility of keeping the barriers up for Halloween after the parklets are removed
 - Long range vision: Nate Allard would like to have street closures once or twice a week seasonally in the summer.
 - Upshot: We are not planning to move forward at this time. But will follow up with Nate to meet with Mayor to discuss this concept.

- Three Roads (Rick)
 - No update. MVPC is waiting for response/next steps from City. Rick will follow up with Wayne to (1) set up a meeting with Jon-Eric and Geordie to scope the traffic counts needed to submit to MassDOT, and (2) to prepare and submit the Project Information Form (PIF, formerly PNF)
- NLS Organizational Support
 - Fundraising: open-ended discussion under four headings
 - Donations
 - Create QR code to direct to the PayPal page
 - Combine asking for money with asking for ideas for advocacy and education. We want to expand our idea pool of what we can do.
 - Look at what similar groups are doing with donations, how they are raising the funds, and how they connect the work to the funding requests. Boston-Cambridge Livable Streets group was mentioned as an example, recognizing the difference in scale (they have staff).
 - Identifying why we are asking for donations
 - Goal-oriented funding –annual planning process
 - Examples of projects that could use funding: open streets or similar pilot projects; traffic calming design guides
 - Project like open streets, film night, community evening ride are closer to our mission – better facilities for biking and walking
 - State goals and priorities for the coming year to support fundraising
 - Our money should be used to inspire change, support pilot projects, etc, not to do work that the City should be doing on a long term basis
 - Grants
 - Communications
 - Consider posting on NextDoor
 - Consider using a survey(s) to identify interests, ask what residents would like us to work on, provide information about our work
 - Lisa is interested in working on social media; Gary and is interested in helping with blog posts
 - Advocacy
 - Walk audits
 - Amplify discussion around Route 1/Merrimac St project –
 - blog post
 - add to (October) email blast
 - Hale Street – continue following and provide input on design proposals
 - Membership
 - No discussion of this topic

- Other Business
 - MVPC update – (1) Metropolitan Transportation Plan has been released for public comment, (2) Active Transportation Plan beginning on Wed 9/6, (3) locations for automatic trail counts are being identified around the region, including two locations in Newburyport

- Motion to adjourn by Judy, seconded by Alden, unanimous

Next Meetings - October 3, November 8