

## **Newburyport Livable Streets**

### **Meeting Notes November 8, 2023 – 7:00 pm Senior Community Center**

#### 1. Welcome / Introductions

Attendance: Sheila Taintor, Rick Taintor, Gary Tirone, Ellen Tirone, Jared Hubbard, Ben Iacono, Eric Tracey, Bonnie Sontag, Alden Clark, Jean Costello, Jonah Williams (MVPC)

#### 2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes -- [NLS 2023-10-03 Meeting Notes.docx](#)

- Approved

#### 3. Project updates -- [110823 NLS Project Updates.docx](#)

- Crosswalks (Alden) – no update from October meeting
- Neighborhood Walk Audits (Juliet)
  - Walk audit of Low Street near Nock Molin and River Valley will be scheduled for after Thanksgiving.
  - Eric to join project team
- Storey Avenue (Bonnie)
  - Judy and Bonnie will work on adding detail to their recommendations
  - Status of Storey Ave planning consultant selection unknown
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Network Plan (Juliet) – no information
- Open Streets (Judy) – no new information
  - Cost of closing the streets down is an issue. Reach out to City about reducing/eliminating cost. Consider asking Recreation and Youth Services Department to co-sponsor if that would reduce/eliminate cost.
- Film: “The Street Project” (Sheila)
  - 10 city officials; 1 paying, 7 comps
  - Candidates: 2 paying, 5? comps
  - ?? NLS members
  - 30 tickets total so far – so have covered the \$250 film rental
  - Juliet and Elizabeth will welcome/introduce and lead the post-film discussion
  - Send FB reminder post on Sunday
- Moonlight Ride on the Refuge (Sheila)
  - Met with Ella to debrief
  - Thinking of doing this twice a year. Spring doesn’t work because of bird migrations, but could have a daytime ride that ties in with the Refuge’s “Let’s Go Outside” events.
  - Fall 2024 dates: Oct 11, Oct 18 (full moon), or Oct 25. Will pick either the 11<sup>th</sup> or the 18<sup>th</sup> as the primary date, with the following week as the rain date
- Bike Parking (Rick) – no new progress
- Hale Street (Rick)
  - Second interviews of consultants happened this week
  - Potential for project to start in January and finish by the end of the year
- Three Roads (Rick) – no progress to report

- Bike Share (Rick)
  - Rick interviewed Erin Stevens, Concord planner, on 10/19 about the Minuteman Bike Share system in Concord and Acton
  - Rick and Eric met (via Zoom) with Matt Gniecki of Koloni Fleets, vendor for the Minuteman system, on 11/2
  - Rick is working with Molly Ettenborough to set up an informational meeting with Matt Gniecki on 11/28 in City Hall
- Potential new project – Green Streets (Bonnie)
  - Recommended in the City’s 2020 Resiliency Plan and discussed in a 2021 NLS blog post
  - Bonnie will talk with Jane Healey about working with the Resiliency Committee on this

#### 4. Follow-up to NLS Organizational Discussion from September meeting

- Discuss forming sub-committees for fundraising, communications, membership
- Discussion of various interrelated questions/issues
  - Membership & Fundraising
    - ◇ If paid membership, should there be a benefit to someone who pays? Or are we just asking people to support our mission?
    - ◇ Different levels of membership? – corporate, individual
  - Communications & Membership
    - ◇ Develop a brochure (e.g., tri-fold) with information about NLS, membership information (checklist of interests), request for contributions
    - ◇ Ask potential members/contributors about their interests and how they would like to get involved (help with events, help with advocacy, etc.) – checklist
    - ◇ Consider a mailer with a solicitation to become a member. FONCOA’s mailings are about 50 cents per mailing to 8000 households in Newburyport. Could also be an information, include tips on walking, etc.
  - More emphasis on walking vs cycling
    - ◇ Reach out to any walking groups in the community
    - ◇ Running shop near the Custom House – running clubs?
    - ◇ Manual for safe walking as well as safe cycling?
  - Logo – talk to Ben Harmon (Human Rights Commission)
  - Email list – suggest advocacy to City Council
  - Gary and Eric are interested in helping with communications
  - Not clear that there is a need for committees on membership or fundraising

#### 5. Other Business

- Bike/ped safety training for elementary school children
  - Sheila described bicycle education and testing in Netherlands elementary schools bike test, and suggested that providing training to kids about safe cycling and safe walking would help them to become more confident and independent in the community.
  - Ellen described a program at the Durham NH Middle School where UNH

students worked with 5<sup>th</sup> graders with the goal of doing a long bike trip.

- Eric described the Boston Bikes program in the Boston Public Schools – teaching kids to ride and getting them riding out in the neighborhoods.

#### 6. Meeting Dates

- Upcoming meetings – December 5, January 2, February 6
- Our regular meeting date on the first Tuesday of the month has been reserved through the end of 2024. The only conflict is the November date which is Election Day

#### 7. Adjournment