

Burlington Walk-Bike Council Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2016

5:30-7:00pm

Presiding: Erik Brown-Brotz

Minutes taken by: Sarah Goodrich

Others present: Mary Twitchel, Serril Flash, Nicole Losch (DPW), Jack Daggett, Stu Lindsay, James Warebent, Carolyn Bates, Barb Hedrick, RJ LaLumiere

Handouts:

- Letter to mayor in support of the Pine St Coalition plan for the Champlain Parkway/Pine St corridor
- Petition in support of the Walk-Bike Master Plan
- Bike Bingo flyer

Motions:

- Motion to send the letter in support of Pine Stree Coalition recommendations for Champlain Parkway to Mayor Weinberger: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain (Nicole, because she works for the City)

Agenda Item: Announcements

- Bike Bingo
- National Bike Challenge
- Jack Daggett shares his letter from two years ago urging the City to pedestrianize Cherry and Bank Streets.
 - RJ suggests these should be open to bicycle traffic but closed to automobiles. Jack thinks that's fine.
 - BWBC will discuss this proposal at a future meeting.

Agenda Item: Compliance with open meetings rules

- Meetings must be warned 24-48 hours in advance, including a list of agenda items to be covered.
- With shifting BWBC leadership, this has fallen through the cracks the past couple meetings, but no actions were taken during those meetings.
- We will do our best to comply with open meetings rules going forward.

Agenda Item: DPW projects planned for this year (Nicole Losch)

- Nicole went through the list of DPW projects that were on a handout at last month's meeting to tell us which projects were on the "maybe" list for this year and which projects are definitely happening this year.
- The North Ave Pilot Project is definitely happening this year.
 - North Ave markings went to bid last Monday with a deadline of May 6.
 - DPW has requested work be done in June or July at latest.
- North Union protected bike lane with armadillos this summer.
- N. Winooski protected bike lane is a MAYBE for this year.
- Riverside side path improvements will happen this year.
 - RJ asks about reducing sidewalk cuts on the Riverside path. Nicole says not this year.
- James suggests improving the pedestrian signal at Elmwood and North.
- Allow bikes on leading pedestrian signals? MAYBE
- Draft of Plan BTV Walk-Bike Master Plan likely to be done in May.
 - Erik requests a demo of the tactical urbanism toolkit at the May or June BWBC meeting. Nicole agrees.
- Bike parking: will inventory bike racks, look for ones that need maintenance, and add a few new ones. Possible shelter and lockers.
 - RJ suggests we're better off adding needed bike racks (e.g. on Pearl St) before repainting old ones that are still functional
 - RJ says it would be excellent to move the planned bike lockers to the transit center.
- Enhanced markings on bike lanes through intersections
- Curb extensions to shorten pedestrian crossings on Pine Street.
- SEBA art enhancement of crosswalks on Pine St.
- MAYBE improve pedestrian access at Shelburne Rotary
- DPW is hoping to hire a second planner. Whether or not this happens will determine how many projects are completed.
- Winooski Ave corridor study MAYBE this year
- More routine and regular data collection is planned. Also display of this data online on a data dashboard later this summer.
- Everything else not mentioned that is on the DPW handout will happen this year.
- RJ asks about sidewalk additions. Improving old ones is prioritized based on state of repair and level of use.

- The list of sidewalk priorities will be online this month. It will help people to at least know where “their” sidewalks are on the list.
- The long-term goal is to have a sidewalk on one side of every street and both sides of busy streets. This is in the Bike-Walk Master Plan.
- James asks about the bike path. Nicole says it will be widened. James thinks there should be rickshaws on the bike path.
- RJ asks if the public-private rec path coalition could come to a BWBC meeting?
- Barb mentions that Minneapolis has separate paths for walking and biking, which is very nice.

Agenda Item: Letter of support for Pine Street Coalition

- BWBC drafted a letter supporting the Pine Street Coalition’s recommendations for the Champlain Parkway project to send to Mayor Weinberger.
- Motion to send the letter: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain (Nicole, because she works for the City)

Agenda Item: Petition supporting PlanBTV Walk-Bike

- The petition in support of the PlanBTV Walk-Bike Master Plan needs distribution.
- People can view the walk-bike master plan on the City website.
- The petition urges the City Council to support the Plan.
- Volunteers are needed at the bike swaps to collect signatures. Also possibly on Church Street, at the Farmer’s Market, etc.
- The bike swaps are this weekend at Earl’s and Ski Rack.
- Mary Catherine from Local Motion is coordinating the volunteers for collecting signatures on the petition.
- Idea to post on Front Porch Forum.
- The only person present who can possibly volunteer this Saturday is James.

Agenda Item: Brainstorming – Fun ideas for BWBC

- James: Bus shuttles on big event days.
- Erik: As an example, BWBC did the stencils downtown asking for no biking on the sidewalks. The stencils are wearing off. We could redo them.
- Bike Bingo and kickoff ride
- Ride of Silence to remember cyclists killed on the road
- Bike Party—last Friday of every month
- Bike Rally?
- Volunteer at Bike Recycle VT –or promote it?
- Bike lane grand opening events for North Ave. and/or Union St. (with media coverage)
- Eco-counters on North Ave. Nicole says the city ordered one, though it doesn’t have a display; it only counts.
 - In Denmark, there’s a program with receptors set up throughout the city, and then a little thing is attached to your bike so that when you bike by a counter you get a “point”
 - Some allow each biker to have a unique ID – get prize for most points
 - Jean Francois would lend us an eco-counter with visible display
 - Would AARP give a grant to fund this?
- Balance bike obstacle course for kids
- On South Prospect, remove UVM buses for a week for safer biking – demonstration project
- There will be food trucks in Leddy Park this summer every first Wednesday. Walk/bike to them?
- Post an events calendar.
- Social media—pics etc. “Bikes In Burlington” like People of NYC
- Bessery’s creemees—walk or bike there
- How can BWBC serve to strategize on making improvements for walking/biking, driving agendas at NPAs, City Council, etc.? Also how can we respond to people’s suggestions/ideas for improvements? Erik suggests we discuss this further at a future meeting.