



Town of Hudson
AD-HOC BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
COMMITTEE

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022

Pursuant to the Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Hudson Ad-hoc Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee was conducted via remote participation.

Call to Order:

The initial meeting of the Ad-hoc Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee was called to order at 7:02 PM by Tom Green. The following voting members were in attendance: Richard Braga, Thomas McCoy, Robert Naiman, Frank Noyes, Kelly Shultz, Tom Green, and Kalisa Barratt. The following ex-officio members were in attendance: Pam Helinek, Steven Santos, and Kali Coughlan

Brief introductions:

Each member gave a quick summary of their background and interest in serving on the committee.

Election of officers:

Mr. Green indicated that the committee should have two officers, a Chair and a Vice-chair. The chair's duties will be to create the agenda for each meeting, take minutes during the meeting and ensure that these documents are expediently posted on the Town's website. They will also ensure that any documents which are to be shared among the members are also posted on the website so that all interested parties can see the data and studies that the committee is evaluating. The vice chair's duties will be to assume the duties of the chair in their absence.

Mr. Green nominated himself to chair the committee. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Naiman. On a roll-call vote the committee voted 7-0 to appoint Mr. Green as the chair.

Mr. Green nominated Ms. Shultz to be the vice-chair of the committee. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Braga. On a roll-call vote the committee voted 7-0 to appoint Ms. Shultz as the vice-chair of the committee.

Overview of work to be done and task assignments:

Mr. Green reviewed a list of work that the committee should conduct:

- Review existing policies which impact street and sidewalk construction, for example Hudson's Complete Streets policy, the American Disabilities Act Design Standards, Hudson's by-laws for developers regarding sidewalk and street requirements
- Review previous studies (Safe Routes to School Walk Assessment 2020; MAPC Assabet River Rail Trail Communities Bicycle and Pedestrian Network 2014;
- Compile and review list of other bike and pedestrian master plans
- Survey planning
- Available maps and mapping tools. Are there maps which show where there are sidewalks in Town?, street widths (both paved widths and abutting Town land?)

Ms. Helinek volunteered to extract the relevant requirements from the Town's zoning by-laws to be shared with the Committee.

Mr. Santos discussed connectivity to recreation and conservation lands in town, and having maps to show the best connections between them. He would also like to see if there is an application which would provide the safest connection for walking and biking between locations in Town. Mr. Green mentioned that Marlborough, Northborough, Southborough, and Westborough have linked many of the trails in their towns to create the [Boroughs Loop Trail](#), and that Stow has created a map showing the best connections between their recreation and conservation properties which they call the [Emerald Necklace Trail](#)

Ms. Barratt left the meeting at 7:30.

Mr. Braga indicated that the Business Improvement District is looking at connectivity from existing and planned trails (Assabet River Rail Trail and the Mass Central Rail Trail) to downtown.

Ms. Coughlan has had experience creating surveys for the Mass in Motion Program. She also suggested that when the Committee begins its outreach via meetings and by survey we should ensure that the information is available in multiple languages, specifically Portuguese and Spanish in addition to English. There was general discussion about how best to get documents translated and having bilingual translation at some community meetings.

Mr. Noyes was on the committee that wrote the Town's Complete Streets plan, and he has had training on ADA requirements and evaluations.

There was general discussion about neighborhood traffic speeds and different traffic calming measures. There was also general discussion about regional transportation and the general lack thereof, but this was tabled since it is beyond the scope of the committee.

Mr. Braga left the meeting at 7:50.

Mr. McCoy raised the issue that many traffic calming and bicycle and pedestrian accessibility modifications can impact parking spaces, which have been a priority issue when planning recent street renovations. Mr. Green suggested that having the Administrator of the Downtown Business Improvement District on the Committee should ensure that we receive feedback from businesses regarding any proposals made by the Committee.

Invited speaker suggestions:

Mr. Green made several suggestions: someone from both the state and local Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, someone from the police department, Paul Jahnige - the "trails guy" from DCR - to discuss the status of the Hudson sections of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Ms. Helinek suggested that we get a representative from a town that has already completed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Discussion of Permanent Meeting Dates/Times:

A suggestion had been made that perhaps early evening meetings (5:00 or 5:30 pm) would be convenient for a permanent meeting time. There was no consensus around this proposal. Tuesday and Thursday evenings were also problematic for several members, and Mondays can conflict with meetings of the Select Board which a number of committee members frequently need to attend. We will try to find a

single time that is generally convenient for all members. Until then, we will hold alternate meetings during the day.

Adjournment:

Mr. McCoy made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Naiman. On a roll-call vote the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.