

Bath Bike and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes: April 26, 2012

Present: Andy Deci, Sarah Bingham, Peter Owen, Steve Balboni, John Swenson, Sharon Wilbraham, Robert McChesney, Meadow Merrill, Rebeccah Farnum, Jeff Labanara, Mike Field, Nancy Perkins

Agenda Issue	Discussion	Actions
March Minutes	Approved	
Committee Member Update	Phyllis Woolf resigned from the committee. John has submitted his application for renewal. Nancy is about to.	
DOT applications for walking and biking improvements	Andy has submitted proposals for several grants. <b>1. ADA New Freedom Access Grant.</b> The original intent was to address ADA issues on a 3 year time table in downtown Bath. However, curb ramps need to be done in pairs so that users can access an opposite ramp. This grant, though competitive, would not require a match from Bath. They do the design, management and the work. If awarded, it would be \$70K at no cost to Bath.  <b>2. Transportation Enhancement</b> grants for 4 projects relating to Bikes and Pedestrians: Commercial St; Front & Vine Streets; Multiuse path on North St. continuing the bike path from the Androscoggan to the Kennebec; and High St from Webber to Winnegance. There would be a low match required. If any or all get the engineering funded, they will likely support those projects down the road.	Andy

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Crosswalk Light	Peter accepted an offer from the state for a free solar pedestrian activated crosswalk (which costs about 10-12K). Peter was looking for direction as to where the committee felt it was needed most. After considering several possibilities, all were in agreement to place it at the new pedestrian walkway on Vine Street.	Peter
Safe Routes to School	<p>2 Mini-grants are possible. Requires a local match. We need to improve the area around Oak Grove and the Armory.</p> <p>Bath Middle School will have Walk &amp; Wheel Wednesdays for students who are able to participate. The kids don't have helmets (or won't wear them).</p> <p>Bike Safety will be included in Physical Ed class. Next week there will be a school-wide walk event. There is no bicycle rack at the school. Are there any old multi-bike racks around?</p>	Sarah    Steve
Bike Safety/Bike Rodeo	<p>Jim Tasse will supply goods and do dads for the Bike Rodeo. Merrymeeting Wheelers will run it and will be manning the course. Navy personnel will be invited to help as well.</p> <p>The helmet supply needs to be replenished. Access Health has given a \$500 grant to Merrymeeting Wheelers for that purpose. Jim Gillies has been in touch with them (MMW).</p> <p>May need 15 volunteers to help out. There is NO rain date.</p> <p>Public Health &amp; You, being broadcast on local tv, will tape an interview with Rebeccah on Bike and Pedestrian Safety this Wednesday night, to be aired in June</p>	Rebeccah

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Miscellaneous	<p>Get Back On Your Bike event last night was a big success. That event was advertised in The Forecaster, attracting a full class and a waiting list.</p> <p>Responsibility for the <b>Bike Rack installation</b> for the downtown has been taken over from Bath Trails. Peter will have Public Works do the work.</p> <p>May is National Bike Month and Bike to Work Week. This was acknowledged but it seems we have our plates full and won't be doing any promotional event.</p>	Peter
Guest Speaker Police Chief Michael Field	<p>He spoke primarily on Bicycle safety in Bath. There have been only 2 car/bike accidents since January 2011, (Hyde Park and Whiskeag Road). There have been a few "incidents" in addition.</p> <p>The police dept has done Safety Days and have given helmets away. At one time they gave coupons to kids seen riding WITH helmets. They still have a small supply which is accessed as needed.</p> <p>Conversation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ Possibility of filming a bike rodeo and airing it on local tv.</li> <li>~ Drivers/bikers getting citations for infractions. They currently don't.</li> <li>~ Bike Thefts. 24 were reported in 2011. Probably most were from unlocked bikes from residential areas. 2 people were arrested. When bikes are recovered they are kept at the police station for 30 days then unclaimed vehicles are taken to the bargain barn at the landfill. <b>Is there a way for this committee to be notified of unclaimed bikes so we could establish a fleet?</b></li> <li>~ Few bikes are registered with the police so reuniting stolen bikes with their owners is rare. Registration happens at Bike Safety Days.</li> <li>~ Bath police patrol on bicycles only during Heritage Days.</li> <li>~ Expand Safety Day to include Vests and Locks.</li> </ul>	

Agenda Issue	Discussion	Actions
Next Meeting	An organizational focus assessing the committee's first year. Where to go from here.  Include: Snow Removal Policy	

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 17. 3 PM.