

Bath Bike and Pedestrian Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

In Attendance: Dan Couture, Lawrence Kovacs, Kevin Shute, Tim Blair, Travis Wolfel, David Comeau, Anne Dunham, Steve Balboni, Lee Leiner, Haley Blanco

Guests: Roo Dunn, Mathew Ambrosino, and two other residents from Green Street. Additionally Gwen Panetski from South Bath neighborhood, and her teacher Maria Newcomb from Bath Middle School.

Introductions and acceptance of minutes

- Committee members and guests were introduced to each other
- Previous month's meeting minutes reviewed and accepted

Gwen Panetski and her school advocacy project

- She is a student of Bath Middle School, Resident on South End of High Street, and her teacher Marias Newcomb joined her at the meeting to provide support for her project.
- Doing a school project on advocating for pedestrian safety.
- She lives on a part of High Street where there are no sidewalks. She and other residents think something should be done.
- Kevin explained the process of how the committee creates prioritizations related to sidewalk maintenance and new construction.
- Gwen was encouraged to share her concerns with her City Councilor.
- Committee formally accepted Gwen's letter and will forward it along as part of our advocacy committee efforts to advocate for an increase in spending over time on sidewalk construction.

Green Street Discussion (Roo Dunn and Mathew Ambrosino Presentation)

- Question asked about the coordination of funds and spending related to sub-surface work v.s. paving, bike, and ped related infrastructure. The answer: The ideal scenario is to have those funding streams coordinated so projects can be done in a coordinated and cost-efficient manner as possible, but it's not always possible given a variety of factors.
- Roo and Matthew presented their ideas and thinking related to the initial proposed design for Green Street:
 - A desire to maintain two walking travel lanes on both sides of the street, maintaining the point of view from a historical perspective, and walkability.
 - Considered the challenges of the "esplanade" and issues it could create related to water and ice collecting near basements. Concern about snow melt causing water in the basement of the houses on the south side of the street.

- They conducted an informal survey of some Green Street residents and will share results with the committee
- Property Value Concept:
 - Multiple realtors have been contacted to assess property value implications. (5 - 10% hit based on the aesthetics and symmetry of the street).
 - The Bike-Ped Committee has requested the letters that Realtors provided to Roo and Mathew regarding property value statements.
- They propose an ordinance requiring residents to clean the sidewalks.
- They raised a concern raised about parking on the esplanade side of the street and the challenges it causes for children and the elderly.
- The Committee thanked Roo and Mathew for their presentation, and explained that the committee also has questions about the redesign of Green Street and is going to be playing a role to evaluate the solution, not just for Green Street, but also how a decision like this will set a precedent for how the needs of similar neighborhoods are addressed. We will proceed thoughtfully and reach out for more input from residents as we go forward.

Budget Update:

- The letter was submitted to Peter Owen, David Comeau, and Mari Eosco.
- Dave will make copies and share with the councilors.
- Committee Members will remain available to talk with their councilors and answer questions about the letter.

Bike Racks and Bike Month:

- Haley's proposal is to create a temporary place to park in town, and considering doing this during National Bike Month.
- Halley will take on coming up with ideas for bike month:
- This will include putting up flyers and other promotional concepts

Newsletter:

- Article about Lawrence Kovacs (Kevin?)

Green Street Follow Up - Round 2:

- Group discussed the "one vs. two" sidewalks issue.
- Agreement that we all need more information to finalize our recommendation regarding the best practice here, as well as how to best implement our complete streets policy.
- The Advocacy and Infrastructure team will determine the next steps.

Next Meeting March 20th.