



**Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Planning Group  
Meeting Minutes  
8/20/19**

**ATTENDEES:**

Ron Bingham, Goodale's Bike Shop  
Chris Buchanan, Town of Amherst  
Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua  
Simon Corson, Town of Amherst  
Nelson Disco, Town of Merrimack  
Brian Groth, Town of Hudson

Judy Shenk, Town of Amherst  
Ed van der Veen, Town of Hudson  
Chris Shenk, Town of Amherst  
Jay Minkarah, NRPC  
Sabrina Pedersen, NRPC  
Matt Waitkins, NRPC

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Waitkins called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm with a round of introductions.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 MEETING**

Waitkins referred to the minutes of June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. He asked if there were any corrections. Corson referred to a misspelling in his last name.

Corson motioned with a second from Chizmas to approve the minutes of June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. All were in favor.

**DESIGN GUIDELINES**

Waitkins discussed the progress made by the design guideline subcommittee led by him, Groth, and Buchanan. Waitkins discussed how the subcommittee is interested in creating a comprehensive regional guideline for municipal staff, accompanied by a condensed fact sheet for the public. Groth added that an inventory of street conditions would be an important step, including street typologies that have not been included in the Amherst design guideline. Buchanan and Waitkins added that safety principals are most likely the easiest selling aspect.

Discussion commenced about how complete streets is applicable to both urban and rural areas, examples of appropriate bike-ped infrastructure, website plans, educational public meetings, executive summary targeting boards of selectmen, cost challenges associated with plowing sidewalks and paths, controversy of sharrows, issue of dooring bicyclists, and road dieting.

Waitkins asked if there is an appetite for creating this regional document. Minkarah responded that it is worthwhile. Chizmas added that education and behavior change are the most difficult, especially when laws are not being enforced appropriately. Shenk added that police could provide educational sessions in the schools. Further discussion commenced about the safety of electric scooters.

Waitkins concluded that K-8 education for bicycling with the police would be a good idea, and the design guideline subcommittee would start developing the regional plan.

#### **REGIONAL PROJECTS**

Waitkins discussed the idea of a feasibility study for a rail for trail project along the freight corridor from Nashua to Wilton. Minkarah added that almost no one uses that rail anymore and Panam may not have any interest in reviving it. Outreach could be done to investigate who would acquire the freight line. Minkarah suspected that the state would acquire it. Waitkins concluded that outreach could also be done with advocacy groups.

Waitkins shared that the regional bike-ped plan is about to be updated starting this winter.

Bingham asked if there was any word about the NH DOT Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. Waitkins responded that no new word came from Alta Planning, but he confirmed that they received their public comments.

Pedersen discussed website updates in terms of meeting minutes, photos, mission statement, and important documents to share with the committee and public.

#### **WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

This agenda item was not discussed.

#### **STAFF UPDATES**

Chizmas shared that the first public input session for the NH DOT Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan is happening September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Nashua Farmers Market. Comments can be sent in by October 9<sup>th</sup> as well.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Waitkins updated the members that new bicycle racks will be installed in front of the 30 Temple Street building.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The month of September's meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ADJOURN**

Waitkins motioned to adjourn with a second from Chizmas. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 2:28 pm.