

CITY OF BARRE PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

Committee/board: Paths/Routes/ Trails Committee

Date of meeting: September 22, 2021

Location of meeting: Virtual via Zoom/In Person Alumni Hall

Board/committee members in attendance: Steve Mackenzie, Stephanie Quaranta, Mark Martin, Dan Sousa, Bill Ahearn, Giuliano Cecchinelli

Board/committee members absent: Karen Nelson, Tim Terway

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

No Visitors

Dan Sousa agreed to serve as Chairperson of the Paths/Routes/Trails committee.

City personnel provided an update on the Metro Way project. City Manager Steve Mackenzie and DPW Director Bill Ahearn both spoke on the challenges that have been faced with the project and some of the details that must still be worked out. There were questions on the boundary lines, drainage, snow removal, access to the rail bed in the event of a derailment, etc. Steve, Bill and Stephanie have attended meetings with Dubois & King, VAOT and the railroad as these concerns are addressed. A meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2021 to continue discussions. City Manager Mackenzie believes that our DPW personnel out straight with other projects and we it might be best to have this project contracted out. Member Mark Martin inquired if the City Manager had a cost estimate for that option.

The committee briefly reviewed the Segments Status Summary / Master Plan from September 2019. There were questions, for example, on the museum segment and whether or not that segment is feasible given the cost of the bridge, etc. Bill Ahearn talked about Pop-Ups that could be put in place to help us navigate areas such as Berlin Street and Granite Street. The Pop-Ups would remain in place for a few months and would give us a better idea of the flow, traffic safety measures, etc. The committee will continue these discussions.

Bill Ahearn talked about “Backbone Bike Lanes” specifically on uphill areas such as Camp Street on up to Cassie Street. This “Backbone Bike Lanes” would consist of a number of streets that would connect the population

density. It would improve access to streets like Beckley, Merchant, Hill, Prospect, Allen, Berlin, etc. We would create a Bike Access Collection of Streets. The idea of mapping out and creating access to as many neighborhood playgrounds as possible would be included. Member Mark Martin mentioned that he is an avid biker and can attest that he bikes all of those hills as do many bikers and a lane would be helpful while allowing a safer access to and from. Stephanie mentioned the popularity of e-bikes is making it a lot easier to get around and using bikes for transportation. Those who live on hills are now finding it easier to navigate with the help of the e-bike and they are biking more to work and other tasks. The committee will take a closer look next month at the streets and develop a solid plan.

The committee has discussed creating a map that would show the paths and trails in the City. Member Mark Martin talked about an app that he uses a lot that shows streets and ones that are heavily used, etc. This would help us take a closer look at the traffic flows. The app is called Strava and Mark will provide us with a presentation at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers as well as virtual.