

TOWN OF LYNDON
BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes
APPROVED 2/12/19

Committee Members: Lew Apgar, Dan Daley, Jill Nichols, Harry Morrison, Cathy Boykin, Ben Rush, Beth Knapinski (public)

Lew Apgar chaired the meeting, which began at 5:21 p.m.

Mr. Apgar determined that previous months' meeting minutes would not be approved until the subsequent meeting, as those minutes were not currently available.

Committee members welcomed Ms. Knapinski and introduced themselves. Ms. Knapinski is the Director of Marketing and Community Health Improvement at Northern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) and may be interested in joining the Committee.

Cathy Boykin proposed adding an agenda item to discuss the Lyndon Area Recreation and Arts Department (LARAD) proposal of creating a Recreation Director position in Lyndon.

Mr. Apgar provided an update on the River Walk kiosks. Lyndon Institute (LI) students will be completing both kiosks under the guidance of Maintenance and Construction teacher, Travis Bugbee. One kiosk is currently completed and the other is under construction. The maps are both completed and located in the office of Town Planner, Annie McLean. The second kiosk should have slightly different dimensions to better accommodate the map, but neither kiosk has benches at this time. LI will add cedar shingles, which should not be a large addition to the cost. When installing, there will need to be "flood resistant" anchored posts so that the kiosk does not float away. The grant stipulates that the Committee has two years to complete the project. Ms. Nichols can bring a sign over to LI to share with Mr. Bugbee or the Committee will invite Mr. Bugbee to check out the signs at the Town Offices. When signs go in the ground in late spring, Mr. Apgar suggested that a press release and photo shoot be planned.

Mr. Apgar also reported out on another opportunity related to the kiosks. The Town got a grant to put up 13 cigarette butt containers ("butt butlers") that are used to recycle cigarette butts and collected butts can provide the town credit to potentially purchase recycled products, such as benches, made from the butts. Several Committee members agreed that we do not want to promote smoking, but we want to encourage recycling and to discourage littering. Mr. Daley suggested having the "butler" in the parking lot rather than attached to the sign, as originally suggested. The Committee decided to table the decision of whether or not to attach the "butler" to the kiosk. Mr. Apgar will invite NVRH Prevention Specialist, Tenny Marceau, to the next meeting to share out more about this project.

Mr. Morrison reported out on the Street Light Inventory for the Lyndonville Electric Department. He and Ms. Boykin inventoried lights on Center Street and noted that the Village side of the Center Street bridge has low light levels. The spacing intervals are far enough apart so that it is black between lights and the lights are also on the opposite side of the sidewalk. Mr. Morrison does not think that the Village side of Center Street is adequately lit. He and Ms. Boykin measured light levels under the streetlight and across the street to the fog line and found that there was not a huge difference in lighting based on the lights that are currently there. Ms. Boykin was concerned about students walking to town along Center Street. Mr. Morrison noted that upon going across the bridge towards Lyndon Center there is a huge amount of light, perhaps more light than necessary based on illumination levels. At this time, the only areas in which the

Committee has collected light level data are Lyndon Center and Center Street. The Lyndonville Electric Department (LED) is interested to know what we have learned. Mr. Morrison and Mr. Rush will meet next Monday, December 17th, to collect data with a focus on Depot Street and possibly Main Street. Mr. Morrison will communicate updates to LED.

Ms. Boykin gave an update on the America Walks Grant. Awardees will be notified in December. Ms. Boykin submitted the grant application on time and noted that if we receive the grant, funds must be used in the 2019 calendar year. She briefly went over the content of the application and pointed out that the grant money would be used for four bollards to highlight pedestrians in crosswalks, in order to improve safety and connectivity of sidewalks, as well as to provide community education.

Mr. Apgar addressed the question of whether this group wants to continue to be an official town committee. He cited such advantages as increased effectiveness and access for permitting purposes, as well as credibility in grant applications. Ms. Boykin suggested tabling the discussion until after February due to reporting requirements of the America Walks Grant. Mr. Apgar mentioned frustrations with rules and restrictions of being an official committee, especially with requiring a quorum of at least four people to run an official meeting and to approve minutes. It was noted that the role of the Committee is to make recommendations to the Select Board.

Ms. Boykin shared information about the presentation at the Select Board meeting on Monday December 10th, on the Lyndon Area Recreation and Arts Department (LARAD). Ms. Boykin informed the Committee of a public meeting to educate Lyndon residents about this opportunity. The meeting will be held at the Lyndon Outing Club on Thursday, January 3rd at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Boykin noted that approximately 70 groups in the area might be interested in being umbrellaed under LARAD and she and her committee are working to contact these organizations to gauge interest and to initiate dialogue. She suggested that for the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the proposed Recreation Director could provide a number of services, including providing back up support for trails, disseminating information to the public, and helping residents access maps. Mr. Daley explained the implications of adding a new Department, describing the pros and cons. Mr. Apgar is in favor of allowing Lyndon residents to make an informed vote at Town Meeting, and he mentioned several possible benefits based on his own experience with the St. Johnsbury Recreation Department, including cost savings for shared insurance and having families sign one release form for all activities, rather than one for each sport. Ms. Boykin noted that Joe Fox, Director of the St. Johnsbury Recreation Department, will be at the January 3rd meeting to help explain how his department functions. No official motion was made due to controversy over whether the Committee would support the Recreation Director position being added to Town Meeting as an Australian Ballot item or adding it as an Agenda Item. Mr. Daley noted that any additions to the Agenda for Town Meeting would need to be in by January 15th, as that is when they typically finalize their budget.

Mr. Apgar adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m. The next meeting will be at **5:15 p.m. on Tuesday January 8th.**