

Manchester Bike & Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 23, 2025

Location: Hybrid, Room 7, Town Hall

In Attendance: Dana Vermilye (Co-Chair), David Saunders (Co-Chair), Terry Cowman, Brian Frey, Peter Chobanian, Sue Centner, Joe Beggan

Also in Attendance: Catherine Bilotta, Select Board member, Christian Gal, friend of the committee

Meeting called to order: 6:02 PM

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- a. Minutes from the Dec. 19, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. Upcoming Events:

- a. Walk Massachusetts Audit Training Seminar (Beverly) - Jan. 25
 - i. **Action item:** David, Terry, Brian, Christian to attend
- b. Massachusetts Winter Walk & Roll to School Day - Feb. 5
 - i. **Action item:** Sue to contact Elementary, Terry to contact Middle, Peter to contact PD if we get interest

3. Plowing & Sidewalk Plowing Update:

- a. Select Board interested in recommendations for sidewalk and plowing safety
 - i. **Action items:** Committee to suggest recommendations; Cathy Bilotta will request DPW budget information

4. Subcommittee Organization Proposal:

- a. Organizational/Structure Subcommittee
 - i. Sue, Terry, Joe, Christian
- b. Project Subcommittee
 - i. David, Dana or Terry, Brian, Ann, Peter
 - ii. Powderhouse trail ADA-friendly example
 - iii. Cathy Bilotta and Susan Beckman can provide inter-committee support
- c. **Action items:** Finalize subcommittee commitment.

5. Powderhouse Trail Project:

- a. Terry got approval on applying remaining CPC funding to mapping Powderhouse
 - i. **Action item:** Terry to follow up on timeline; Dana to get current balance on CPC funding availability

6. AARP Community Challenge Grants:

- a. Due March 5, 2025 - Projects completed by December 2025
 - i. **Action item:** Committee to identify what projects may qualify

7. Open Space & Recreation Committee Signage Project:

- a. Select Board approved signs around Pine St., Pleasant St. and School St. to indicate trailheads
- b. Piggybacking on Downtown Improvement Committee signage project (put on hold as DPW is trying to find vendor)
- c. **Action item:** OSRC to think about reducing signs, on hold

8. Manchester-Essex Rotary Club Fall Fundraiser Ride:

- a. David communicating on planning
 - i. **Action item:** David to follow up with Ken.

9. Annual Town Meeting Report:

- a. Peter submitted to Town

10. E-bike Safety Video:

- a. Brian submitted to Town and PD
 - i. **Action item:** Revisit education/promotion efforts in Spring with schools. Peter & Brian to collaborate.

11. Bicycle Friendly America Application:

- a. MBTS awarded "Bronze"
 - i. **Action item:** Will receive promotional details and analysis for distribution on Feb. 28; Committee to plan public ceremony. Special interest from Select Board on if/how this could provide culvert project feedback. Peter & David volunteered for promotion efforts.

12. Community Survey:

- a. Currently on hold pending BFA analysis/report.
 - i. **Action item:** Peter to revise based on BFA analysis.

13. Speed Petitions for Bridge & School Streets:

- a. Retiring 40 mph limits in Town to reduce to 35 mph
- b. School St. limits to be aligned with State
- c. **Action Items:** Think through follow up to reduce target speed and communication plan (Joe)

14. Transportation Funding Update:

- a. House 1 bill to alter how funds are distributed, MBTA, municipalities, Chapter 90 fund increase
 - i. Pavement management, bridges, new program to include culverts
 - ii. Redistribution of fair share funds – MBTA debt, program funding (regional transit), free fare programs
 - iii. Chapter 90 fund flexibility for municipalities

- b. Select Board voted to redirect public transportation funding from MBTA to CATA (expand CATA servicing) at no additional cost
- c. Automation for ticketing bill

15. Seaside No. 1 Crosswalk:

- a. Select Board approved 20ft cone blockage around crosswalk
 - i. **Action item:** Select Board to repaint lines and most likely remove/move crosswalk due to safety concerns. Call the PD if someone moves the cone!

16. School St. Light:

- a. DPW notified School of inoperable light – has not been fixed

17. Bike line on Lincoln to School Street:

- a. Committee evaluated location, feasibility and challenges
 - i. **Action item:** Discuss with DPW (Dana/Joe)

18. Atwater Avenue Design and Access Plan:

- a. DPW is seeking funds from State for bike accommodations up to Essex Town line
 - i. **Action item:** Waiting on feedback on DPW funding

19. Streets Update:

- a. Mill and Forest still under construction
- b. Remaining scheduled, TBD

20. Town Mapping of Key Locations:

- a. Planning Board is interested in comprehensive plan and discussion
 - i. **Action item:** Planning Board is collaborating with Downtown Committee on comprehensive plan; need to apply and receive funding

21. Chebacco Woods:

- a. Signage improvement on parking in front of gate

Next Meeting Date: February 18 at 6:00 PM.

Submitted by: Brian Frey, on behalf of Manchester Bike & Pedestrian Committee

Approved by Vote of Committee: February 18, 2025