

## **Glastonbury Bicycle Advisory Group**

### **Meeting Notes**

**January 11, 2017**

**7:30 am – 9:00 am**

1. **Introductions-** The meeting started at 7:31 am. A list of attendees is included at the end of this document.

2. **Updates-**

a) **Town Departments-**

- i. **Engineering-** The draft report for the Bicycle Safety Audit has been received; we are awaiting the final report. D Pennington has requested the final report so that it may be presented to officials and policy makers.

Multi use trail is still in approval stages. The grading needs approval; waiting for state/federal feedback. Plans are advancing so design is set and ready for construction.

Roundabouts:

- a. Hebron/New London Tpke – Funding has been awarded, construction begins in the spring
- b. Hebron/House – In design review at DOT. Construction is planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2017 construction season

Hebron Avenue promises to be a busy corridor in 2017 with schedules of construction activity. Aspects of construction are funded through separate local/state/federal funding allocations.

As reported in the *Glastonbury Citizen*, funding of \$7.5 million for the Glastonbury approach to the bicycle/pedestrian pathway on the Putnam Bridge has been appropriated from State for the Glastonbury.

- ii. **Parks and Recreation-** No report

- b) **Bike Walk Glastonbury-** D Dauphinais approached the CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness Council about the concept of a locally developed Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) program. The proposal is for a program not as in-depth as the BFB program through League of American Bicyclists. The Chamber (which now includes East Hartford) is on board. Will not be involved in design, but will sign on as communication partner to assist with promotion and publicity with members. Dauphinais will be liaison with Chamber of Commerce Health & Wellness.

A subgroup of BAG members will meet to discuss and develop the BFB plan. A Park, D Dauphinais, J Stein, W Mis, will form subgroup. Park indicated that staff at Welles Library is also interested in participating in this group. An email about when/where to meet will be sent out.

3. **Guest Speaker-** Alan Tinti, representing the Central CT Chapter of New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA), a 501c3, non-profit organization. Tinti said that the Longo Farm open space parcel owned by the Town, approximately 220 acres, has an excellent parking lot and is a popular spot with mountain bikers, both beginners and more advanced riders. Tinti made suggestions about

development of mountain bike trails to encourage more use for all level bikers. The parcel has links to Meshomasic State Forest and the Buckingham Reservoir property.

Mountain bikers typically volunteer to maintain trails available to them. Tinti asked if trails at the Longo property were open to mountain bike use. R. Purtell stated that unless specifically prohibited, trails are open to all use, and only bridle trails exclude mountain bike use. Sometimes Parks and Recreation receives negative feedback about trail use due to effects of dog walking, potential access through Americans with Disabilities Act, and mapping/trail marking.

Recent improvements for open space parcels such as Longo, Arbor Acres and Greylodge have included creation of parking areas and signage. Further improvements at Longo with respect to trail development for mountain bikers could include working with Boy Scouts for cleanup, improved signage & mapping. Trail development would occur after discussion between Purtell and group proposing trails. There is a need to be respectful of existing policy that allows undisturbed agriculture without adverse impact between users and farmers.

Tinti stated that NEMBA members have worked with MDC, DEEP, etc. over the years, and have a trail designer to assist with development of trails. Parks & Recreation offered to look at proposal and work to see if there was regulatory impact, need for commission review, etc. Purtell and Tinti will talk further about trail and process.

A request was posed to A Park about the potential for a beginner mountain bike class. Park will look into this.

4. **Other Items- BFC Report Card/Bicycle Master Plan** – W Mis distributed copies of The League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community Feedback document from Spring 2015. **(NOTE: BFC awards are for a 4 year period. Our Spring 2015 recognition requires a Spring 2019 recertification, with application started in the fall/winter prior)** Mis asked members to review the Feedback document and the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) to determine if there are areas of the Bicycle Master Plan that correlate with suggested areas of improvement in the Feedback document. Cross referencing the documents may provide reasonable areas for bicycling improvement. Information and connections can be sent to Mis via email.

An inquiry was made about the status of bicycling programs at Board of Education, since programs with BoE were an important part of our initial application. Mis will inquire with Ann Marie Colebrook at BoE. Members asked to have the original BFC application provided to them to review with the Feedback document and the BMP. Members discussed the forward movement of state funding for the Putnam Bridge approach.

J Damon offered that planning for the 2017 Tour of Glastonbury is underway. He is working with Parks and Recreation on the application and filing date. Tentative Tour date of September 10, 2017.

Mis pointed out the list of 2017 Bicycle Advisory Group meeting dates at bottom of agenda:

### **Meeting Dates 2017**

Meetings will be held in Engineering Conference Room from 7:30 – 9am unless otherwise announced

- Thursday, March 9
- Thursday, May 11
- Thursday, July 13
- Thursday, September 14
- Thursday, November 9

#### **5. Adjournment- 8:16 am**

#### **Members in attendance**

X	Joe Damon	Glastonbury Kiwanis/2016 Ride Planner
X	Deb Dauphinais	Bicycles East/Bike Walk Glastonbury
X	Ron Degray	Bike Walk Glastonbury
X	Dennis Desmarais	Bike Walk Glastonbury
X	Sgt. Jeffrey Hodder	Glastonbury Police Department
X	Wendy Mis	Town of Glastonbury, Health
X	Anna Park	Town of Glastonbury, Parks and Recreation
X	Dan Pennington	Town of Glastonbury, Engineering
X	Ray Purtell	Town of Glastonbury, Parks and Recreation
X	Dan Sharp	Bike Walk Glastonbury
X	Jeff Stein	Bike Walk Glastonbury

Guest: Alan Tinti