



**South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee**

[southhadleyma.gov/bikewalk](http://southhadleyma.gov/bikewalk)

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**South Hadley, MA/Bike-Walk Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2020: 7:00 PM**

**South Hadley Public Library-Trustees Room**

**Attendees:** Mariann Millard (Chair), Melissa O'Brien, Nancy Bozek, Larry DuBois, Lucia Foley, Margaret Jodoin

**Absent:** Marilyn Gass

**Guest:** Doris DuBois

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

**December 18th Minutes:** Unanimously approved as presented

**Membership discussion:** Mariann announced that Carol Gillis had resigned effective immediately. Both Melissa and Margaret expressed that they would resign effective June 30 as Mariann had previously shared her resignation letter with the membership. Melissa noted that she had shared the leadership duties both prior to and during Mariann's chairmanship. Lucia indicated that she would be willing to stay on the committee and help with the website and other duties of communication; she noted she is not inclined to be involved with the monthly treks, particularly in leading them.

Larry announced that he had applied to be a member of the Commission on Disabilities and that would be his first priority. Mariann mentioned that Paul Dobosh might still be considering joining the committee. There was further discussion as to what the future of the BWC would be, given the current tasks of being a supportive partner to the Planning Board, Conservation Department and the Open Space Plan for purposes of grant funding. Also what will be the new Master Plan outline for the BWC and who in town should also be part of the "alike-goals" working groups, besides volunteer residents, for a town government connection, e.g. Town Administrator, DPW and Planning Department staff? Given that the Master & Open Space Plans are not yet final and that there is a town officials election slated for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mariann stated that she would approach the Select Board post-election after the Town Election to hear their thoughts as to the continuation of the BWC.

**TREKS:**

**1/19 Ledges Golf Club Paths:** Both Mike Fontaine and Mike Sullivan have been consulted. There was no confirmation that the road and parking would be plowed in time for the trek with the impending snowstorm forecast. As usual weather and safety concerns come first. With a possible snow storm over the weekend, Mariann will as always advise of a final determination made mid-morning on Sunday.

**2/23:** If the January trek is cancelled the Ledges will be rescheduled for February. If not cancelled, then it'll be Black Stevens from the Plains School entrance.

**3/15:** Bachelor Brook (previously cancelled in December 2019 for inclement weather/parking lot conditions).

April and May treks will be discussed at February Meeting

**Master Plan/OpenSpace & Recreation Draft Plan Updates:** Included in materials for this meeting was the Annual Town Report to the Master Plan Implementation Committee and BWC's Responses to the Master Plan Questionnaire. Kudos to Lucia Foley for her much-appreciated work on our response.

**Old Business:** Mariann reported that she had not yet received a response from Andrea Miles (Select Board chair) regarding the Minutes of the September 3 meeting where a presentation was given regarding Remote Participation. Mariann had contacted Andrea on November 23 questioning why the Minutes did not mention the BWC presentation nor had there been any indication that additional research as to the ability to use this in meetings was being studied further. The information presented by BWC indicated that Remote Participation could be done without great expense or expensive technical equipment.

Mariann said she will follow-up with Andrea.

**New Business-General Discussion:**

There was mention of two area playgrounds not being maintained. One was the skate park at Buttery Brook which has not been kept up to safety standards and is possibly going to be abolished for installation of a Pickle Ball Court.

The other area mentioned was the playground at the Senior Center, which was again cited for not being maintained and scheduled to be demolished. Neglect like this does not bode well for South Hadley, particularly with all the emphasis on outdoor, easily accessible recreation in the previous and the new Master Plan for pocket parks in the town's neighborhoods.

**Next Meeting:** February 19; Melissa O'Brien, Clerk

The Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Margaret Jodoin*