



www.southhadley.org/bikewalk

Bike/Walk Committee Minutes

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:00pm at BATTERY BROOK PARK, MAIN PAVILION

Roll Call

Andy Rogers, Recreation Director; Jim Buckley, Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley, Jake Woodruff, Ruth Camuse, Marilyn Gass, Patrick Tracey; Absent: Caroline Martin

Guest: Leo LaBonte, Historic Commission; Rebekah Cornell, Conservation Administrator

Approval of Minutes

Minutes will be viewed at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership

All current members are returning for 1-year terms in FY24.

Treks/Events

▪ **April 22, 2023—Bynan Earth Day Trek—Saturday at 1:00pm**

Conservation Administrator Rebekah Cornell and Conservation Commission member Bill DeLuca led the Trek. The event was well-attended and Rebekah reported that they found tadpoles. There were a number of children who could enjoy seeing the tadpoles. While some Trekkers used the Fairway parking lot, others parked on the grassy area by the road, which didn't present any problems

▪ **July 13, 2023—Summer Bike Ride Event—Thursday at 5:30pm**

Jake has been working on the route which will be a short loop starting from the parking lot at the rear of the Village Commons. The event will be scheduled in conjunction with the Thursday Summer Concert Series on the Town Common, and riders will leave about an hour before the 6:30pm concert to be back before it starts.

▪ **September, 2023—Black Stevens Trek—Saturday at Time TBD**

Jim suggested a fall Trek at Black Stevens Conservation Area. Jim lives nearby and could help with a Saturday Trek. Rebekah noted that the 'Black' in 'Black-Stevens' is Dr. Jean Black, an early woman physician connected with MHC, and 'Stevens' was associated with the Stevens Papermill family.

▪ **October, 2023—Historic 'Around Town' Trek—Day and Time TBD**

Leo LaBonte of the Historic Commission talked about some of the options for a series of joint Historic Commission and Bike/Walk Treks (Goal G14 in the Master Plan), including a Falls walk that was developed with the Historic District Study Committee. A Historic Walk could be a good addition to Town's new 'Showcase South Hadley' event, which will be held on October 7-8, 2023, over Indigenous Peoples/Columbus Day weekend. It was suggested that it might be possible to work with MHC students to tie in local history with slavery and the underground railroad during the 1740s to 1780s, as South Hadley is in the center of a slave-involved area.

▪ **November, 2023—Leaping Wells Trek—Day and Time TBD**

Rebekah Cornell advised that parking lot improvements should be done by then. We need to identify a date.

▪ **January, 2024—Bachelor Brook/North Trek (possible)—Day and Time TBD (not Sunday)**

In winter, Bachelor Brook can be accessed from the Town Field, but in fall it is an active hunting area. More information is needed about the trail, conditions, and amount of incline, etc.

2023 Summer Fun Run Program—Thursdays at 6:30pm, July 6 to August 10 (6 weeks)

Andy reported that the response has been good and kids are already signed up. Races are at six sites, including the Upper Lake and Prospect Hill Trails at MHC, Black Stevens, and River-to-Range Trail. They could still use volunteers to help time runs, etc.

Buttery Brook PARC Grant

The Town will be seeking a \$500,000 grant for Phase II renovations Buttery Brook Park, which are estimated at approximately \$715,000. A new accessible walking trail and Frisbee Golf would be included in the plans.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcements

- The kid-friendly **Stars Above Outdoor Circus** is coming to Buttery Brook Park on July 25 and July 26, 2023.
- The South Hadley Farmers Market at Buttery Brook Park will have a food truck each week. The Market will be open Wednesdays from 2-6pm from May 24 to October 11, 2023.
- For more information about Buttery Brook Park and Recreation Department events, see: <https://www.southhadley.org/1200/Buttery-Brook-Park> and <http://southhadleyrecreation.org>

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **6:00pm on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 via Zoom.**

A motion to adjourn was approved by all at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucia Foley, Member

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Master Plan Tasks

Actions for which Bike/Walk is the primary entity are:

- G1-1:** Development of brochures/trail maps, support for wayfinding (**ST**)
- G1-2:** Encourage families/school children to use/enjoy outdoor resources (**I**)
- G2-1:** Create master map for locating outdoor seating/gathering areas (**ST**)
- G3-2:** Develop commemorative bench program (**ST**)

Also, related action for Trek planning:

- G1-14:** Develop historic walks around town (**ST**)
(Primary Entity-Historic Commission; Sub-Entities-Disabilities Commission, Bike/Walk)