



NEWBURYPORT LIVABLE STREETS

Meeting Notes December 17, 2024 – 7:00 pm Senior Community Center

- Welcome / Introductions
 - Attendance: Alden Clark, Bonnie Sontag, Eric Tracey, Chris Cunningham, Jared Hubbard, Elizabeth Maldari, Judy Sharkey, Carolyn Layzer, Eddie Rubin, Sheila Taintor, Rick Taintor
- Approval of October Meeting Minutes – [NLS 2024-10-22 Meeting Minutes.docx](#)
 - Motion by Alden, second by Bonnie, approved unanimously
- Treasurer's Report – [NLS Tr Rpt 12-17-24.pdf](#)
 - Alden presented the year to date financial report.
 - Starting balance 1/1/24 = \$454.52
 - General income = \$325.11
 - Bike share grants = \$3,500.00
 - T-shirt fundraisers = \$783.22
 - Moonlight Ride net = (\$52.82)
 - Expenses = \$177.77
 - Ending balance 12/17/24 = \$4,832.26 (\$1,332.26 unrestricted)
- Fundraising
 - Grassroots Fund Grow Grant – due March 20. Will discuss at January meeting
- Community Event Reports
 - Moonlight Ride – Fri, October 18
 - Sheila met with Ella Weber to debrief and think about next year. The Refuge staff was thrilled to have more people know about the Refuge as a result of the event.
 - Discussion about the challenges of managing such a large event. Elizabeth shared her experience with Cambridge Ride for Lives (World Day of Remembrance) – 400 riders, volunteers trained to manage flow, communication at key locations. Should we have more volunteers during the ride? Alden suggested that we provide more lights for participants, and give guidance about safe cycling at the start (e.g., announce when you're passing). Sheila said that the sign-up for next year's Ride will spell out rules and have registrants agree to abide by them.

- The 2025 Moonlight Ride will be on Friday, October 3, with a rain date of October 10. (Hunter's Moon is Tuesday, October 7).
- Bike Rodeo – Tue, November 5
 - Bonnie reported that the bike rodeo was successful event, although smaller than anticipated. Only half number of kids that we expected, and done by 12:30. Interested in expanding this to adults. ([Full report](#))
 - Jared suggested that the lower participation might have been the result of rescheduling to a time when RVCS students were in class.
 - Elizabeth suggested including immigrant communities. Bonnie noted that there are several Afghan families in Newburyport.
 - Elizabeth observed that only 3 girls participated out of about 30. Highest percentage of vulnerable user injury incidents in our region are girls 13-18 years old.
 - Sheila asked if Scouts have bicycling badges? Can we support that?
 - Eric discussed the bike bus concept. Rick noted that Portland OR has a large bike bus program with online maps and schedules for routes to many schools. Elizabeth said that Lexington MA there are yard signs that say "The bike bus stops here at x:xx."
- Project Updates
 - Bike Share Pilot Program – Rick
 - The Request for Proposals is posted online and will be officially released on Monday, December 23. The deadline for submitting bids is Thursday, January 30.
 - On Monday, 11/25, the City Council voted 10-1 to approve the order authorizing a bike share program. The action included an amendment proposed by Councillor Zeid stating that no city funds would be used for the program. This means that the pilot program must be completely funded by grants, donations, and user fees.
 - The team is continuing to write and submit grant applications to close the funding gap, currently about \$22,000 for the first year of the pilot.
 - Storey Ave West Sidewalks/Crosswalks – Eric
 - Eric presented his project to document walking conditions on Storey Avenue between I-95 and Hoyt's Lane. He gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the study area, existing conditions, neighbors contacted, survey questions and results, next steps
 - On the south side of Storey Ave there is a 700-foot gap with no sidewalk between Turkey Hill Road and the east side of the veterinary office. On the north side there is a similar gap, with no sidewalk between the two Philips Drive intersections. The existing sidewalk on Storey Ave terminates before the easterly Philips Drive intersection, with a crossing distance of about 81 feet to the new sidewalk on the opposite side of Philips.
 - Crossing Storey Ave is difficult. The only crosswalk is at Daniel Lucy Way and Storeybrooke Road, and is about 89 feet long, crossing five traffic lanes.

- Fliers were distributed to about 260 households in the Turkey Hill Road and Philips Drive neighborhoods. There was a good response and strong interest in improving walking conditions along and across Storey Ave.
- Next steps:
 - Send survey findings to respondents
 - Neighborhood meeting – ask for feedback, suggestions (invite city staff, ward councilors, etc.)
 - Draft letter to MassDOT; send draft to Wayne Amaral, Geordie Vining, Mayor Reardon, ward councilors, TSAC
 - Copy letter to Rep. Dawne Shand and Sen. Bruce Tarr
- Crosswalks Inventory – Alden
 - Inventory work is basically done. All info is in master spreadsheet. There are a few items to check.
 - Meet with team: suggestions for improvements and additions. Then present to this group.
- Hale Street Pedestrian/Bicycle – Rick
 - The project is considerably behind the original schedule. A wetlands delineation has been completed and was approved by the Conservation Commission at its December 3 meeting. No sense of when a meeting will take place to present concepts.
- MVPC
 - Flag project: <https://mvpc.org/2024/11/27/world-day-of-remembrance/>
 - Elizabeth described the project. Memorialize 94 traffic deaths in Merrimack Valley region (in 2024?). Initial event in Methuen. Still need to finish the project. Display in location(s) in the region. Would be 50 yards long if all lined up. Can give materials. Looking for volunteers.
 - Jared – Paula Estey Gallery might be interested.
- 2025 Meeting Dates – approved
 - January-October: 4th Tuesday
 - November-December: 3rd Tuesday
- Adjourned at 9:00pm

Next Meeting – January 28, 2025