



# NEWBURYPORT LIVABLE STREETS

## Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025 – 7:00 pm Senior Community Center – Boardroom

- Welcome / Introductions
  - Attendance: Alden Clark, Chris Cunningham, Marcia Grant, William Grant, Ben Iacono, Kitty Krajci, Carolyn Layzer, Patrick Reed (remote), Eddie Rubin, Bonnie Sontag, Owen Smith, Rick Taintor, Sheila Taintor, Eric Tracey, Judy Tymon.
- Approval of December Meeting Minutes – [NLS 2024-12-17 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)
  - Motion by Alden, second by Eric, approved unanimously
- Treasurer's Report – [NLS 2024 YE Treasurers Rpt.pdf](#)
  - Alden presented the 2024 year-end treasurer's report

Starting balance, 1/1/24:		\$454.52
Income:	\$425.15	
Restricted grants:	<u>\$3,500.00</u>	
Total revenue:	\$3,925.15	
Events surplus:	<u>\$730.40</u>	
Total increase:		\$4,655.55
Expenses:		<u>\$180.25</u>
Ending balance, 12/31/24:		\$4,929.82
– Restricted:	\$3,500.00	
– Unrestricted:	\$1,429.82	

- Adoption of Annual Budget – [NLS 2025 Budget - Proposed.pdf](#)
  - Rick presented the proposed budget for 2025.

Starting balance, 1/1/25:		\$4,929.82
Income:		
– Fundraising	\$900.00	
– Grants	\$8,000.00	
– Donations	\$500.00	
– Interest	<u>\$1.00</u>	
– Total income		\$9,401.00
Expenses:		
– Events	\$2,000.00	
– Projects	\$5,800.00	
– Grow Grant	\$1,000.00	
– Administrative	<u>\$148.50</u>	
– Total expenses		<u>\$8,948.50</u>
Net surplus:		\$452.50

Ending balance, 12/31/25:	\$5,382.32
– Restricted:	\$3,000.00
– Unrestricted:	\$2,382.32

- The budget includes three potential grants and associated expenses:
  - \$2,000 – League of American Bicyclists for bike lights & bells and Moonlight Ride cocoa
  - \$2,000 – Bike share pilot program (placeholder for various grant applications)
  - \$4,000 – Grassroots Fund Grow Grant for part-time staff, youth internship, and event expenses
- Motion to approve the budget by Alden, second by Judy, approved unanimously
- Fundraising
  - Rick reviewed the list of grants that are available to organizations with missions like ours. Several have application deadlines in early March. Suggestions for projects can be sent to Rick.
    - Eric raised the concern about the lack of pedestrian facilities at the Storey Avenue entrance to Port Plaza. Could we apply for a grant to make simple improvements? Discussion included the fact that this is private property and the owner is likely not interested in making a change, and the need to accommodate large trucks turning into the site from Storey Avenue. The consensus was to keep this issue as a concern and to advocate for addressing it when the owner applies to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a comprehensive permit to convert the K-Mart site to housing.
  - Rick and Liz have been working on an application to the Grassroots Fund for a \$4,000 “Grow Grant” to help the organization expand its outreach and activities. The application deadline is March 20 and more information will be shared at the February meeting. (Note: A working draft from last August is on the Google Drive at <https://bit.ly/GrowGrantDraft>.)
  - Rick asked members to complete a survey (<https://forms.gle/2Xpn3Pq3wZz26Q8H8>) so that we have the demographic data required for the Grow Grant application.
- Brick Sidewalks
  - Judy Tymon introduced the proposal by Councilor Jennie Donahue to revise the ordinance that requires brick sidewalks in the downtown. Jennie has concerns about safety of brick for those with vision or mobility disabilities, lack of maintenance of the existing sidewalks leading to uneven surfaces, and the costs of repairing brick sidewalks. She is planning to meet with DPS Director Wayne Amaral and ADA Coordinator Dennis Morel to discuss her concerns. Meanwhile, the proposed ordinance is being kept in the Public Works & Safety Committee.
  - Owen said that the City should look at the number of injury claims that have been made for brick sidewalks vs. other areas. If this is a significant cost to the City, it becomes an argument for increasing expenditures on maintenance and repair. The question was raised as to whether there is a defined budget for sidewalk maintenance similar to the budget for street maintenance.
  - Ben said that our focus should be on the safety aspect, not on any specific design. Defer to experts to say what are the safest designs and materials.
  - NLS will continue to watch the issue but will not take any action at this time.

- MVPC Updates
  - Patrick reported on a \$1.2 million federal grant received under the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program for bicycle and pedestrian planning for the Route 110 corridor between Haverhill and Amesbury.
  - The Merrimack Street project at Route 1 is still on track for construction in 2027.
  - Making data from the trail counters available is proving to be more time-consuming than expected. MVPC can access the data from most of the counters but it is challenging to interpret. The next step is to create a web portal that will include all of MVPC's vehicle traffic counts and data from the trail counters.
- Review Work Plan – [NLS 2024 Work Plan.docx](#)
  - Rick went through the 2024 Work Plan and asked for updates, changes and additions where appropriate.
    - Hale Street – Wetlands delineation was completed last summer. Concept planning is in progress – waiting for a public meeting presentation. City is applying for a MassTrails grant to pay for design and permitting of a shared-use path. Keep on the 2025 work plan.
    - Neighborhood Walk Audits – No specific walk audits are planned at this time. Members discussed doing audits on Storey Ave west of I-95 as a continuance of the project that Eric has started, including around the Turkey Hill Road/Storey Ave intersection. Keep on the 2025 work plan.
    - Storey Ave Visioning – On hold until Andy Port hires a consultant for the state grant project. Keep on the 2025 work plan.
    - Bike Ped Network Plan – No recent action. Rick will discuss with Juliet.
    - Three Roads Design – No recent action. MVPC is waiting for City to formally request planning.
    - Crosswalks – Most of the inventory is complete. There are a few locations that need to be checked again.
    - Bike Share Program – Proposals are due on Friday, February 7. Next step is City Council acceptance of several grants: the requests will be submitted for the February 18 Council meeting with the goal of a vote at the March 10 meeting. Two grant applications are still pending. If these do not come through, the first year of the pilot program may need to be scaled back.
    - Low Street Pedestrian Improvements – Keep on the 2025 work plan pending approval of the Recreation Youth Center and K-Mart housing.
    - Community Rides – Moonlight Ride is scheduled for October 3 (rain date October 10). Keep on the 2025 work plan.
    - Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming – Keep on work plan.
    - Business Park Bike/Ped Connections – No action here. Keep on list or move to back burner?
    - Fundraising – Ongoing.
  - Agreed to add three items to the 2025 work plan:
    - Storey Avenue, west of I-95 – Eric
    - Bike rodeos – Bonnie

- Bike bus – Eric and Sheila
  - Other Business
    - Discussion of walking on Storey Ave from Turkey Hill Road west, and down Hoyt's Lane.
  - Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm
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**Next Meetings** – February 25 / March 25 / April 22