



NEWBURYPORT LIVABLE STREETS

Meeting Notes
December 16, 2025 – 7:00 pm
Senior Community Center – 2nd Floor

- Welcome and introductions

Attendance:

- NLS members: Alden Clark, Bonnie Sontag, Juliet Walker, Chris Cunningham, Judy Tymon, Eddie Rubin, Sheila Taintor, Rick Taintor, Liz Fabel, Jared Hubbard, Ben Iacono, Eric Tracey
- Councillors-elect:

Ward

2 Stephanie Niketic
3 Brian Callahan
4 Beth Trach
5 Lisa Medina Smith
6 Mary Delai

At Large

Ed Cameron
Afroz Khan
Heather Shand
Ben Harman
Sarah Hall

- Others: Jean Costello, Meg Slack, Christian Slack

- NLS members and visitors introduced themselves, identifying their street and ward and shared some of their top priorities for livable streets in the City
- Councilors/Councillors-elect identified some of their priorities with respect to streets and sidewalks:
 - Stephanie Niketic
 - Traffic calming
 - Afroz Khan
 - Look holistically at the City, rather than being reactionary to one-off concerns and projects.
 - Hale St is a priority
 - Heather Shand
 - Low St master plan
 - Kent/Merrimac intersection (reduce asphalt, make safer, better sidewalks, crosswalks)
 - Brian Callahan
 - Merrimac St between Carter St and Park Lunch
 - Sidewalks
 - Ben Harman
 - Change policy on how the city addresses projects - not just repair but improve safety & circulation
 - Mary Delai
 - Three Roads
 - Implement complete streets policy with more fidelity
 - Connect Ward 6 to the rest of the city for walkers and cyclists (Hale St, Moseley Ave, Ferry Rd, Pine Hill, Hoyts Lane)

- Beth Trach
 - Low St comprehensive plan
 - Three Roads
 - Improved transit
- Sarah Hall
 - Hale St shared use path
 - Snow angels program
- Lisa Medina Smith
 - More holistic planning
 - More effective resident feedback mechanisms (esp. for Hale St shared use path)
- Ed Cameron
 - Process, NLS as advocates
 - Fully implement complete streets
 - Councilors, administration and advocates aligned on priorities
 - Three Roads
 - Hale Street
 - Plum Island bike/walk access (Water St, causeway)
 - Factor in ped/bike access in any project
 - Bike share
 - Secure bike storage at MBTA Commuter Rail
 - Work with MeVa to create a bus shuttle within Newburyport.
- NLS members and Councilors had an open-ended discussion about priority topics, issues and projects related to streets, sidewalks, walking and cycling. Notes were recorded on easel pads and are summarized below.

Topics/Priorities (* indicates topic was raised by multiple participants)

- ***Ability to get around Newburyport safely and efficiently without a car
 - Emphasize safety for all modes of travel
 - *Identify traffic safety issues to address holistically city-wide
 - **Focus on safe routes to schools
 - Lower traffic speeds
- Street design and operations
 - ***Change city's approach to road projects to prioritize multimodal safety, follow "complete street" approach, inform capital improvement plan priorities
 - Implement traffic calming in all neighborhoods
- Walking and cycling
 - *Crosswalk accessibility and safety improvements
 - Support a car free downtown
 - Improve snow clearing of sidewalks in the winter
 - ***Improving bike access, comfort, and safety for all ages and abilities
 - Promote adult and child bicycle safety education
 - Expand bike share program
 - Expand and improve bike storage at commuter rail station
- Transit
 - *Improving public transit -- reliable, practical, convenient, frequent
 - Support adding a public shuttle for points within the City

- Low Street Corridor
 - *Support for creating a master plan for the entire corridor for improving walkability, bikeability and overall traffic calming
 - Adding sidewalks on both sides
- ***Three Roads Intersection
 - Address safety issues
 - Identified as a regional priority by Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC)
 - Coordination needed with MassDOT to move project forward in state funding program
- *Storey Ave
 - Safety concerns noted and need for improved access for walking and biking
 - Key connection to West End neighborhoods
 - Coordination needed with MassDOT as this road is state owned
- Hale Street
 - ***Critical gap in bike/ped connection between Turkey Hill neighborhood and schools and future Youth Center
- High Street
 - Improve safety of existing crosswalks, particularly near schools
- Merrimac Street Corridor
 - *Improve Kent St/Merrimac St intersection -- decrease amount of pavement, fix sidewalks, slow traffic speeds, make safer for pedestrians crossing
- Plum Island – improve access across causeway for bicycles and pedestrians
- ***Improve bike/ped connections to West End neighborhoods
 - Storey Ave
 - Hale Street
 - Moseley Ave
 - Ferry Rd

How can NLS support City?

- Advocacy and outreach around all of these issues
- Data and evidence – provide supporting information and best practices to help inform decision making
- Provide examples of low tech options to improve street safety
- Provide talking points to respond to common concerns
- Figure out how TSAC can be more effective
- Support ongoing collaboration and cooperation with MVPC and MassDOT
- Assist with updating Complete Streets Policy and explore opportunities to codify CS practices in City ordinances/regulations

Themes

- Connectivity
- Safety
- Community health/well being
- Public transit
- Planning — project prioritization, pre-design process, coordination with street/sidewalk improvements
- Large/long-term investments (capital projects) vs. short-term solutions (low hanging fruit)

- Approval of November minutes – moved by Bonnie, seconded by Alden, approved
- Treasurer’s Report – presented by Alden (attached)
- Other Business
 - Advocate for physical measures wherever the city has daylighted – especially around crosswalks.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Treasurer's Report

Newburyport Livable Streets
2025 Treasurers Report

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|------------|
| Starting Balance January 1, 2025: | | Unrestricted: | \$1,429.82 |
| | | Restricted: | \$3,500.00 |
| | | | ===== |
| | | Total: | \$4,929.82 |
| REVENUE: | | | |
| INCOME: | | | |
| | Dues | \$0.00 | |
| | General Donations | \$451.07 | |
| | Unrestricted Grants | \$0.00 | |
| | Interest | \$0.44 | |
| | | | ===== |
| | Total INCOME: | | \$451.51 |
| RESTRICTED GRANTS received: | | | |
| | Bike Share: | \$0.00 | |
| | Adult Cycle Clinic: | \$2,300.00 | |
| | AARP Bike Audit: | \$2,500.00 | |
| | Walmart/Bres bike rack: | \$400.00 | |
| | | | ===== |
| | Total RESTRICTED GRANTS received: | | \$5,200.00 |
| | | | ===== |
| | TOTAL REVENUE: | | \$5,651.51 |
| EVENTS: | | | |
| | T-shirt Fundraiser proceeds: | \$0.00 | |
| | T-shirt Fundraiser donations: | \$0.00 | |
| | | | ===== |
| | T-shirt Fundraiser net: | \$0.00 | |
| | Moonlight Ride donations: | \$101.31 | |
| | Moonlight Ride expenses: | \$0.00 | |
| | | | ===== |
| | Moonlight ride event net: | \$101.31 | |
| | | | ===== |
| | TOTAL EVENTS SURPLUS: | | \$101.31 |
| RESTRICTED GRANTS Distributed: | | | |
| | Bike Share: | \$3,500.00 | |
| | Adult Cycle Clinic: | \$743.39 | |
| | AARP Bike Audit: | \$1,573.61 | |
| | Walmart/Bres bike rack: | \$399.99 | |
| | | | ===== |
| | Total RESTRICTED GRANTS Distributed: | | \$6,216.99 |
| EXPENSES: | | | |
| | Postage | \$0.00 | |
| | Website | \$70.00 | |
| | Supplies | \$90.00 | |
| | Bank Fees | \$10.43 | |
| | Filing Fees | \$0.00 | |
| | Equipment | \$178.27 | |
| | Donations: | \$0.00 | |
| | | | ===== |
| | TOTAL EXPENSES: | | \$348.70 |
| | Unrestricted Balance: | | \$1,633.94 |
| | Restricted Balance - Bike Share | | \$0.00 |
| | Restricted Balance - Adult Cycle Clinic | | \$1,556.61 |
| | Restricted Balance - AARP Bike Audit | | \$926.39 |
| | Restricted Balance - Walmart/Bres bike rack | | \$0.01 |
| | | | ===== |
| | Balance on December 16, 2025: | | \$4,116.95 |