



Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order/Introductions

Committee Members Present:

Alex Vogt (Chair)
Dick Lemieux
Liz Richardson
Laura Aibel (City staff representative)
Jeff Warner (City staff representative)

Members Absent:

Bill Hodges
Jennifer Kretovic
Colette L. Farland-Vogt

Guests:

Jonathan Gregory (partial)

Review / Accept Minutes

Minutes from the June meeting were accepted.

Schedule of Future Meetings

The next meeting is Thursday, August 18, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

On-going Discussion and Action Items

A. Coordination with the Trails Committee

No report.

B. Merrimack River Greenway Trail

48 volunteers with assistance from General Services and the Police Department cleared the portion of the future trail from Loudon Road south to the "peninsula". Together they filled a 30 cy dumpster in roughly 2 hours. Dick Lemieux, Craig Tufts, and Becky Hebert attended the NHDOT Natural Resource Agency Coordination Meeting to obtain their input on constructing a footpath along the selected route. The group was supportive of the effort. As long as the trail does not require a Shoreline Protection permit (any excavation will trigger the requirement), it is acceptable to cut vegetation for the purpose of the trail. It is intended that only branches and small saplings will be removed. Becky will coordinate with Ron Clemarczyk and schedule a time to flag the route for the trail.

C. Sidewalk Audit program

UNH Technology Transfer Center (T2) has received a grant for the creation of a transition plan for the City of Concord with the ultimate goal of creating a model which all communities can use. Matt Golde is leading the project for T2 and performed the curb ramp inventory for the City while an intern in 2009. The plan will be modeled after the transition plan for Bellevue, WA. The plan will consider the physical condition of the infrastructure and the proximity to the area of highest use/demand. The study area is roughly bounded by the Merrimack River to the east and I-393/Penacook Street to the north. T2 will be performing the field work. The City will need to collect the data for the remaining part of the City at a later date.

New Business

D. 350.org

Jonathan Gregory presented the 350.org concept which is “the” organizer of “day of action” activities. The overall theme of 350.org is addressing climate change. One of the current campaigns is entitled Moving Planet (September 24, 2011). This is an opportunity to get people from across the globe to walk, bike, skate, and move. It’s an opportunity to tie together nations, communities, poor, rich through the simple action of moving. Jonathan has registered an event with 350.org entitled Merrimack River Greenway Trail Tour.

One concept for the event is to organize three guided tours (walking, road biking and mountain biking). The tours would ideally use a portion of the trail (in its current condition) and promote/educate people about the Greenway. Jonathan may also be able to organize an event with the Red River Theaters where the Greenway organizers would be able to present the trail. Another concept would be to have a work day for the trail between Manchester Street and Loudon Road.

Jonathan is looking for assistance identifying the best activities for the day, which segment(s) is appropriate, and who can help with the activities. Road and mountain bikers are needed to organize and lead those segments of the Moving Planet event. Jonathan has Pete Rhodes (TPAC-Bike Chair) contact information. Individuals may also be needed to present the Greenway at the Red River Theater or other venue.

The committee supports the idea and asked that Jonathan provide a summary of the event and his needs which could be broadcast to various groups which the committee has contact with.