

## SPRINGFIELD TRAILS, GREENWAYS, BYWAYS AND RURAL ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 24 , 2018

The meeting began at 7:04. Present were Bettina McCrady, Hallie Whitcomb, Randy Gray, Chuck Gregory and George McNaughton (presiding). Present also was Katherine Otto of the Regional Planning Commission (by invitation).

Special Presentation: Active Transportation Plan **Katherine Otto** of the South Windsor County Regional Planning Commission.

Ms. Otto described the function of Transportation Planning at the local level: inventories of culverts, roads and bridges; traffic and pedestrian counts, prioritize state funded projects; help manage town projects; and help manage VTrans projects. Recent works include a biking and walking Plan in 1997 and 2006, and a regional transportation plan in 2014.

She presented the concept of “active transportation”— physical activity involving travel, such as biking, running, walking and hiking, abled or disabled. All venues involving personal locomotion, such as downtowns, paths, roads, shoulders, lanes and connections to public transport, are included. AT makes transportation networks more complete; fosters bicycle tourism, provides transportation options for people without vehicles, facility healthy living, improves environmental health, fosters downtowns, and helps achieve personal and community energy goals.

She presented a pyramid of Springfield’s existing facilities: town highways— 569 miles — 135 miles of state highways, 67 miles of class 4 highways, 41 miles of sidewalk, 26 miles of legal trails, 3 miles of multi-use paths, and 1 mile of bike lanes. 77% of people drive to work; 6% walk, others use 17%. 58% of households have 2 or more vehicles. About 100-200 people walk on Main Street and 50-150 use the Toonerville Trail. Websites and working routes: “Map My Walk.” Events: “Walking Wednesdays,” “Way to Go” commuter and school challenges, and “Safe Routes to Schools” involve school children in Ludlow.

Running: Regular events: The Springfield Dam Run, the Edgar May Thanksgiving Day 5K, the Vermont 50 Ultra Run, the Trot it Off 5k, the harpoon oktoberfest Road race. Websites and running routes: Map my run, Strava, WalkJogRun, and miscellaneous (usually monthly or more frequently) events involving the Toonerville Trail.

Biking: Pointe to Point ride event. Websites and biking routes: Map My Ride, STrave, and local bike shops.

Other: Horseback riding, mountain bike riding, hiking. Winter usage: walking to school running and walking on clear shoulders, etc.

TRENDS: New technologies to make non-car options easier, to change safety issue, to involve more of the elderly, to increase ADA guidance availability. Increased pressure on funding; new prioritization processes, changed preferences of the young, and new Complete Streets law.

She showed the interactive map available and explained its use.

Ms. Otto was invited to stay for the presentation of the master map of trails prepared by **Randy Gray**. She indicated she hoped to learn the usage patterns indigenous to Springfield and what might be priorities of this committee.

George McNaughton stated it was the task of the committee to inventory all the historically used trails in the town before they are lost to memory. Hallie Whitcomb said she feels it important to have them marked. Ms. Otto recommended getting the details written down.

George asked if she had a map which would show whether the highway from Springfield to North Springfield used to run on the other side of the river. Bettina McCrady asked if anyone knew if the Hartness House trails used to be connected to the public trails at Hartness Park.

Ms. Otto recommended the **Crown Point Trail** also be included on the master map.

Chuck Gregory mentioned there is a trail from the end of Carley Road to the **Cathedral Rocks** which ends on Wellwood Orchard Road. Bettina mentioned the likely existence of a trail off **Cooper Street** and another one, private but open to hikers, on **South Street**.

**Randy Gray** will update the map with the routes mentioned tonight and present it at the next meeting.

Members will supply him with additional details as discovered.

Old Business

1. Approve Minutes of prior meeting. Moved (Gregory/McCrady) passed.
2. Review Master Maps prepared by Randy Gray.
3. Report of **Bettina McCrady** regarding letter/contact regarding Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan.

Bettina reported that as far as she can tell from discussion with the Tree Warden and the Town Manager there has been no activity from that group. Consequently, she feels we should ask them how that report can be useful to the Town. Kelly Sterner of the audience related that the town has not been able to secure a tree warden to work

with the management plan. George said that the report has never been submitted formally to the town for action and that it is necessary to have the Select Board act on it. George said if we would like to start it moving, we can include it in our report to the Planning Commission of the Forestry regulation on “heavy cut.”

4. Report by George McNaughton regarding Basin letter— **deferred** until the next meeting.
5. Hemp Production regulation (Report by Randy Gray — **Deferred** until the next meeting.

#### New Business

6. Discuss request for input from the Planning Commission regarding “heavy cut” as contained within the following:

Moved that we tell the Planning Commission that we are uncomfortable with points A & B and that they should bring in foresters to discuss those provisions. (Gregory/McCrary) Passed. During the discussion of the forestry section on areas within 50’ feet of the highway the criteria for pocket parks came up. It was felt that it would be helpful for the Planning Commission to develop criteria for pocket parks. Motion to advise the Planning Commission to develop criteria for pocket parks and that we are willing to work with them on the development of criteria (Gregory/McCrary). Passed.

10. Mineral Street: Bettina McCrary said the Garden Club might be involved with light maintenance of growth at a pocket park on Mineral Street if it is created and that funding might be available through Jon Caplan.

George announced that Freedom Park will be working with Riverside Middle School and that the Union/Park Neighborhood Association is working with Union Street school on community garden projects.

11. Agenda for next month: Randy suggested getting permission from the Select Board to talk individually and severally to private landowners.

Moved to adjourn (Whitcomb/Gray). Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Gregory, secretary