

Minutes of Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting December 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM

Attending Committee Members were: Bob Dorer, Shawn Hanegan, Jacinda Barbehenn and Dan Silverman

Guests included: **Sue Baldauf**, Director, Youth and Family, **Carla Olsen**, Coordinator, Healthy Bedford and **Ralph Hammond**, Trails Committee

- Bob delayed the discussion of the last month's minutes in favor of hearing from Carla Olsen from Healthy Bedford regarding the overall update from the Spring, of Healthy Bedford, CHNA grant application approval discussion, next steps to follow and a discussion of the ways that the TAC can support their initiative. The meeting in the Spring was to finalize their Planning grants. They asked the town committees and residents what did they feel the things were in Bedford that they thought they needed to improve their quality of life, sidewalks, local transportation, etc. A proposal was made to the CHNA for \$25,000, proposing a pedestrian master plan and for exploring local transportation resources and options and looking for ways to maximize them. Discussion followed. It was noted that the TAC was “key” in these issues as to providing support. Sue Baldauf asked how could the Youth and Family group could provide assistance and input to the various transportation initiatives, as a whole. Ralph Hammond added several comments as to how the Trails Committee is also getting involved in the whole transportation concept. Sue Baldauf thanked Ralph for his support and involvement of the Trails Committee.
- Ralph Hammond from the Trails Committee brought us up to date on what their group has been doing. As part of their on-going work, the Trails Committee has created an “index” of various sites of interest and/or historical importance throughout the extent of the trails. The sections are “color-coded.” The sites of interest would be marked by a small wooden (for now) post with the color code of that trail. The posts would also have several “QL” code stickers according to certain other colors: “White” for historical points of interest, items in “blue” would represent business interests of the various merchants and the “green” would represent geological, invasive species, special plants, etc. The sites are divided into different sections with a total of 21 sections. The whole idea is to get people out to explore and get to know their town better. He said they were hoping to have at least one “Trail Steward” on each section to provide minor maintenance such as trimming growth so as not to impact the trails and to oversee the general condition of their specific section of the trail.
- Shawn Hanegan led the discussion of the recently-released “Bedford Comprehensive Plan,” that has been posted for comments from the TAC to the Planning Board. The comment period is until Jan. 17th, 2014. The state charters towns to develop a comprehensive plan from time to time, usually every ten years or so. The idea of the comprehensive plan is to try to envision what we, the residents, want the town to look like in the next ten years, in many different areas, more especially transportation. Shawn felt that rather than submitting individual comments, we should submit our comments as a “board,” which would give more emphasis to those comments. Cindy asked Shawn if there was any aspect of the plan that he might have been unhappy with. Shawn indicated that he was “happy” with it because he felt that the whole Planning Board was “on board” with the concept that “transportation” is not just “cars.” Bob

asked if there might be more detail on this plan later on. Bob suggested that perhaps one of the things that we could potentially say, as a committee, is that we fully endorse certain elements of the transportation section and that we feel that maybe there be a goal of by the end of 2014, to have completed a portion of one of those elements. Make it very specific and perhaps some headway could be made. It was noted that January 17th is the deadline for comments. Some general discussion followed. Bob noted that we all should commit to becoming familiar with the Comprehensive Plan for discussion at the next meeting, and be ready to discuss items that we felt were useful for a letter to be sent to the Planning Board, and Dan is to put it in the minutes. for the benefit of the member who were absent.

- As to the minutes of the last meeting, Bob noted that he noticed only one typo. Also Shawn noted that his last name was incorrect. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be accepted as corrected.
- Cindy asked what was the status of the 51 Loomis Project. Shawn indicated that the project was approved, but to his knowledge, no demolition had been started. Shawn noted too that a lot of the neighbors are still opposed to the project because of the large buildings being planned. The Planning Board will re-address the mixed-use portion of the project. Some related discussion followed.
- Bob wondered why the remainder of the Middlesex Turnpike project, specifically the intersection at the Doubletree, has not been finished nor have the signal lights been turned on, which is a dangerous situation. Shawn indicated that the problem has to do with the “double poles,” and that NSTAR was the problem. Dan explained that all the similar road projects that he has worked on in the past included what is referred to as a “force account” and that the utility can be made to do the work. Bob stated that he wondered why there were no streetlights on the new road. And if they were, in fact, part of the project. Dan said that everything for the project will be on the plans and speculated that they may have put in conduit with “hand-holes” for lighting at a future date. This is what a lot of his projects did.
- Bob noted that the chief of police and officer Mark Saucier will attend our next meeting. Vehicle “crash” records have been sent to all TAC members.
- Bob also noted at the last meeting he was asked whether we could get the DPW to get into the process of looking into the feasibility of the Winterberry Way project. He said that he did indeed send a note to Roy Sorensen, asking them to take a “high level” look at it. He has not heard back.
- The next meeting will be January 23, 2014.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Silverman