

**Minutes, Amherst Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 2018**  
**Conference Room, Public Works Department - 5:00 PM**

Members Present: Aaron Hayden, Bruce Carson, Kimberly Tremblay, Eve Vogel  
Members Absent: Mark Rabinsky  
Staff Present: Guilford Mooring, Christine Brestrup  
Others Present: 8 UMass Students

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Meeting started: 5:00 pm.

1. Announcements
  - a. A Citizen talked to the Planning Department about concerns about traffic, bus stops, and pedestrian access on Old Belchertown Rd, Research Dr, and Larkspur Dr
    - i. Would like to be discussed about it at a future meeting
  - b. Tom McBride sent in letter with suggestions about the S Amherst common
    - i. Will be sent out to committee members
    - ii. Will also be responded to by committee head
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Mill St
    - i. New info: Sidewalk project is being proposed to be a Community Development Block Grant
      1. Wouldn't include the parking beyond Groff Park
      2. Will be put on agenda when time comes
    - ii. Committee would like to see maps
      1. Plans for the water park is available online
  - b. Minutes not approved pending changes
3. Recent project requests
  - a. No project requests in the past 2 weeks
  - b. Belchertown Rd
    - i. Sidewalk and lighting issues
      1. UMass has no lighting policy, so their response to lighting complaints affects how people think about how Amherst should respond
  - c. Petition for paving of Mill Ln
    - i. Because Station Rd is out
    - ii. Road residents prefer to have it be unpaved in order to slow traffic
  - d. Shays St
    - i. Two rollover accidents this year
  - e. E Pleasant St
    - i. Comments about trying to keep E Pleasant at top of list for sidewalks
    - ii. A different idea than what is being done

1. Connecting the neighborhoods in that area in a different way that doesn't consider E Pleasant to be a corridor, but a link to those neighborhoods
2. Will be put in the agenda when the time comes
- iii. Why isn't there more lighting on E Pleasant
  1. Town policy is to have street light at intersections, the end of cul de sacs, and curves (vertical or horizontal [bend in road or hill]), and more in the downtown area
    - a. Committee members would like to revisit this policy because it leaves out bike and pedestrian safety
    - b. Policy came into effect because of Prop. 2.5 in the 1980s
    - c. Also need to be aware of Dark Sky compliance
  2. With the separation of the travel lanes the need for lighting is lessened
  3. General lighting discussion about pedestrian need, UMass lighting, town lighting
    - a. Even though there is more lighting down town, the area around the Amherst college is still dark for the pedestrians in the crosswalks
    - b. Example of types of lighting can be brought in
- iv. Ask about the narrow motorized traffic lane
- v. Existing connections
  1. One is on conservation land
    - a. Need to come up with some understanding or agreement in order to use it
    - b. Can't use Chapt 90 money on conservation land
    - c. Want to pave it, but it's mixed gravel currently
    - d. Not maintained in the winter
  2. Sidewalks that would go on west side of E Pleasant would connect the neighborhoods further away as well as people that want to go to Grantwood area
- vi. General Discussion about "what type of project" E Pleasant can be
  1. Possibly Complete Streets
  2. Either put in sidewalk, or do a multi-use path
- vii. Can prioritize doing a survey of E Pleasant
- f. Prioritizing Projects
  - i. Council will take into account the priority list TAC presents
    1. Council handles the budget
  - ii. Discussion about how to prioritize projects/develop the prioritization plan
- g. N Pleasant St

- i. Survey already done
    - ii. Start working on concept of plan
      - 1. Plan citizen meeting
  - h. Mill Ln put on list
  - i. S Amherst common put on list
  - j. Discussion about line painting and bike lane maintenance/sweeping should be on the list
    - i. Discuss both at future meeting and how they relate to the TAC
- 4. New Council Government
  - a. Committee needs to send recommendations for projects to council
  - b. Committee needs to consider new form of governments effect on Committee's status and role
  - c. Request for committee memo from council
- 5. Sidewalk Policy (PVPC Policy)
  - a. Something will be presented on the 12<sup>th</sup>?
- 6. Parking conflicts on main roadways
  - a. There is more parking on main roads due to rental properties
    - i. Damaging to bike lanes and shoulders
  - b. A town wide by-law that there is no parking on certain streets (refer to map?)
  - c. As part of rental registration property owner is supposed to submit a parking plan
    - i. When someone in planning office finds out about it goes out and takes action
  - d. This problem stems from the change in allowing vehicles to park on-street overnight in the downtown area
  - e. By-law language will be discussed in a future meeting
    - i. Will be parking regulation for the whole town, applies to certain roads
- 7. Town wide speed limit
  - a. Cannot put up signs
    - i. Only put up signs at edge of town
  - b. If Council is asked to implement this, have to be specific about streets and what the criteria are
  - c. Putting up signs does not slow the traffic, changing the road structure does
    - i. May also risk alienating people
- 8. Next meetings
  - a. December 12<sup>th</sup>
    - i. PVPC update