



Meeting summary for Hanover Bike Walk (01/13/2025)

Attendees: Jennie Chamberlain (Chair), Evan Gerson (Vice Chair) (zoom), Robert Houseman (Town Manager), Scot Drysdale (zoom), Hugh Mellert, Rai-Ching Yu, David Anderson, Lara Acker, Tim Cox, Aaron McKenna, Mathew Kim, Bill Young

Quick recap

The meeting covered a wide range of topics related to town infrastructure, safety, and community projects. Discussions included updates on bike lanes, pedestrian paths, and road safety measures, as well as plans for conducting walk audits and fundraising efforts for various initiatives. The committee also explored ideas for community engagement, such as organizing events and improving signage, while addressing concerns about specific areas in need of infrastructure improvements.

Next steps

- Bill to draft a proposal for fundraising for the Girl Brook Path project within a week.
- Jennie to send out Dave Anderson's presentation on complete streets policy along with two related articles to committee members.
- Jennie to schedule a walk audit on Lebanon Street from the high school to the Co-Op on Sunday, January 26th.
- Rai-Ching to work on mapping bike rack locations on campus and interview students about their biking experiences.
- Jennie to map potential locations for bus shelters and bike racks in Hanover.
- Rob to confirm the location of the previous speed study on College Street and look into speed studies on South Main and Lebanon Street.
- Bike Walk Committee to write a letter in support of more pedestrian and bicycle friendly street redesign on College Street
- Matthew and Jennie to discuss and implement a new method for creating and distributing meeting minutes using AI.

Summary

Hanover's Topics and Map Discussion

Jennie shared a map displaying animal and car crash locations.

November or December minutes approved.

National Bike Guide and Safety Updates

The National Association for Transport of City Transportation Officials' is releasing a new guide to create safe bike infrastructure, emphasizing the importance of building bikeways that are wider that can accommodate people traveling at various speeds, and connecting neighborhoods to arterials.

Safe Streets for All Grant applications are set to open in March.



Jennie recapped last month's discussion about HBW guidance about College and Wheelock and the effectiveness of raised intersections in creating a more accessible crossing and improving safety, the ENG 89 90 team's work on a more accessible West Wheel corridor, Dartmouth student participation in the Walk for Light' safety program. Jennie also mentioned the AARP's handy street surveys toolkit and David Anderson's presentation to the Select Board on the updated complete streets policy. The next steps include presenting the policy on January 27th and February 10th, with adoption planned for February 10th.

Speed Studies and Walk Audits

Jennie initiated a discussion about speed studies on South Main and Lebanon Streets, with Robert confirming that the 30 mph zone sign should be removed and replaced with 25 mph signs. Jennie also proposed conducting walk audits in various areas, with the aim of gathering data for future improvements and the shared streets plan. The committee agreed to start with a small area and invite others to participate. Jennie suggested focusing on areas like Lebanon Street and Maple Street, which are scheduled for repaving soon. The idea is to systematically map these areas and provide observational data for the shared streets plan. The committee also discussed the potential for students to participate in these walk audits, particularly on the Dartmouth campus.

Town Road Walk Audit Discussion

The Committee discussed the organization of a walk audit on town roads, particularly those in the campus area. The audit would assess safety, accessibility, and other factors. Rai-Ching wondered who they should report findings to about campus. David agreed to distribute the information to relevant decision-makers. There was a similar process for evaluating lighting around campus. Scot raised concerns about ice and snow. The Committee agreed that weather makes audits harder, but where ice and snow accumulates in walking paths could provide valuable insights. The possibility of organizing a bike audit was also discussed, and Rai-Ching is considering organizing them in the springtime when the weather is warmer. Committee members suggested reaching out to Tom O'Donnell for assistance. The idea of a bus stop audit was also proposed. The discussion concluded with a plan to organize a walk audit on Lebanon Street, with the first one scheduled for two Sundays from then.

Shared Street Planning and Safety Concerns

Committee discussed the progress of the shared street planning, including the potential for a roundabout at Lebanon and Crosby, and the need for further research and planning. Robert mentioned that he had followed up with a consultant and would provide an update. The Committee also brought up the need for consideration of Maple Street's repaving and the safety of Buck Road to DHMC. A past committee's work on a roundabout at Crosby was also mentioned. Lastly, the possibility of meeting with Dartmouth Hitchcock to discuss Buck Road's safety was discussed, with Robert expressing uncertainty about the timing and the need to use resources wisely.



Addressing Infrastructure and Bike Path Concerns

Bill expressed concerns about the lack of a bike path and pedestrian path parallel to the North Access Road, which he described as a "missing link" in the town's infrastructure. He suggested that a meeting involving Dartmouth, Hanover, and NHDOT could help address this issue. The Committee also brought up the need for a continuous bike lane and sidewalk connection past Dewey parking lot, which could be resolved in conjunction with Dartmouth's Geo Exchange project. There were discussions about improving this connection at College/Lyme/Park during the North End housing planning, but no immediate action was taken. Lastly, the Committee asked for updates on the Girl Brook Path project.

Easements and Fundraising Planning Discussed

In the meeting, Robert discussed the progress of the bi-weekly meeting regarding the Girl Brook Path and the need for complete easements for the right of way before moving forward with the construction. He mentioned that the college has granted a full easement without compensation, but the two other abutters have not responded.

The Committee proposed forming a small planning group to figure out how to raise the estimated \$120,000 shortfall. Robert clarified that the shortfall could be more than \$120,000 and that the town has the capacity to hold the funds. The committee agreed to form a subcommittee to explore fundraising options. Bill will coordinate.

Fundraising Options and Fiscal Agents

The Committee discussed the two ways of fundraising for the town: accepting donations directly and using a non-profit as a fiscal agent for tax-deductible donations. The Committee mentioned that the Friends of Lebanon Parks and Recreation is currently serving as a fiscal agent for the West Lebanon and Hanover Greenway project. Robert suggested that the Upper Valley Business Alliance could potentially serve as a fiscal agent for the Girl Brook Path Completion Project. Evan expressed interest in connecting the project to the Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC) for potential funding.

Bike Infrastructure and Safety Discussion

The Committee discussed the idea of hosting a talk with Bond, a world record holder for an unassisted bicycle ride from Alaska to Argentina. Rai-Ching will see if coordinating with the DOC is possible. Rai-Ching also proposed the idea of mapping out where bike racks and bus shelters would be beneficial in Hanover, suggesting a more strategic plan for these infrastructures. The committee also discussed the need for more positive and instructional signs, rather than prohibitive ones. The Committee discussed how Dartmouth College and the town of Hanover are working on guidelines for safety of bicycles and micro mobility, but there was no clear update on their progress. The committee also discussed the creation of an ice garden at the Ray School, which was a collaborative effort with Dartmouth students.



Field Trip and Road Redesign Plans

In the meeting, Hanover proposed a field trip to the raised crossing in front of Dartmouth Hall and suggested conducting a speed study on College Street to assess the impact of the road redesign. The Committee agreed to write a letter to the appropriate places, such as the Valley News, explaining the College street redesign and how people should plan to travel the street safely. The committee also discussed the effectiveness of the split rail fencing in directing pedestrians to the designated crossing area.

The conversation ended with plans to incorporate AI for faster minutes distribution and a discussion.