

HANOVER BIKE WALK COMMITTEE

Meeting MINUTES: Monday, June 11, 2025 @ 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

[Committee Files: June Meeting Folder](#)

Town Hall (41 S Main St): [Boardroom](#) (or [via Zoom](#) — ID: 82297440412)

In attendance: Jennie Chamberlain (chair), Matthew Kim (secretary), Hugh Mellert, Bill Young, Doug Deaett (guest), David Anderson, Scot Drysdale (zoom), Lara Acker (zoom)

Meeting summary for Hanover Bike Walk (06/09/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting began with informal conversations addressing transportation initiatives and committee updates, including discussions about speed limits, shared streets vision, and various infrastructure projects covered last month. The committee reviewed several transportation-related topics including community outreach challenges, committee reappointments, and ongoing projects like the WaHG trail feasibility study and Girl Brook Path fundraising efforts. The committee concluded by addressing parking issues, reviewing sustainability goals, and discussing micro-mobility surveys while considering updates to winter maintenance policies.

Next steps

Bill: Aims to meet with Rob to discuss fundraising strategy and clarify the vision for the complete Girl Brook trail project beyond the current segment, and decide whether he chooses to assist in fundraising for identified Girl Brook Path segment

Committee Members: Recruit new committee members to expand capacity, particularly seeking representatives from schools and specific neighborhoods

Bill: Reach out to Avery Hoppa to see if she will join the committee or committee's communication efforts.

Committee: Support outreach efforts for the Shared Streets Vision project through in-person engagement with community members (presentation and survey link posted on HBW website for reference in support of these efforts)

Committee: Update the Complete Streets policy references with new materials from AASHTO. Work not yet delegated.

Committee: Work with town staff on documenting the town's winter maintenance policy for sidewalks to meet New Hampshire standards

Jennie: Invite Kiara Ortiz and Heather Dryman from Dartmouth's President's office to present about their personal electric vehicle survey

Jennie: Reach out to Carolyn Radisch about outreach for the Shared Streets Vision project.

Summary

Transportation Infrastructure and Initiatives

The group discussed various transportation initiatives, including a recent article by Todd Lipman that refuted the notion that working from home alone could significantly reduce vehicle travel,

emphasizing the importance of systemic infrastructure improvements. They reviewed several projects that had been discussed last month, such as the ENGS 89/90 presentation on traffic calming along West Wheelock, the Hemlock Reservoir stop sign discussion, and support for a South Main & West Wheelock multimodal redesign. The committee also acknowledged Matthew's departure and thanked him for his contributions as secretary and congratulated him on his graduation, while briefly discussing the use of AI for meeting minutes.

Speed Limit Review and Updates

The Selectboard had discussed lowering speed limits on West Wheelock, South Main, and Lebanon streets, with a focus on reducing speeds to 25 mph. They noted that while the speed limit was planned to be lowered to 25 mph on West Wheelock, similar changes were not yet formalized on South Main Street, or on Lebanon Street which currently has a 30 mph limit within the urban compact. Doug mentioned the need to research best practices for traffic signs, as there are approximately 40 signs between Kendall and the second circle that could be improved.

Committee Appointments and Project Review

The committee discussed committee reappointments, recommending Jennie, David and Lara for new three-year terms while noting a one-year position also is coming available with Matthew's graduation. David moved to recommend to appoint, Bill seconded, all in favor. Bill moved and Hugh seconded to approve the minutes, all in favor.

Community Engagement for Shared Streets Vision Planning

The committee discussed challenges with community outreach for the Shared Streets Vision Plan, noting that a web-based survey alone was insufficient to engage the community effectively. They agreed that in-person communication and educational workshops were needed, with suggestions to involve local organizations like the PTA and expand the committee's membership to include more diverse representatives. The group also highlighted the importance of clear communication about ongoing projects, such as the Main Street revisioning, to ensure community understanding and participation.

The committee discussed outreach for Shared Streets Vision Planning, with Jennie offering to coordinate with Carolyn and Rob Houseman regarding community engagement. Jennie encouraged committee members to engage people they know in the community to share about the project.

The committee also reviewed a WaHG Trail feasibility study, which is being conducted by Stantec in four segments across different areas.

Hanover Bike Walk Events

The committee reviewed various transportation initiatives, including Earth Week activities, a Bike Skills Rodeo, and Walk/Bike to School day which were generally well-attended and generated enthusiasm. They discussed the need for better communication with the school staff

and considered involving Avery Hoppa from the Parent Teacher Organization in future efforts, as well as inviting Avery to join the committee. Bill offered to pursue.

The committee reviewed Ride the Cones, a pilot project of a protected bikeway setup on Lebanon Street. People greatly appreciated the separation and several filled out the online survey posted at the end of each ride. Thanks to Jennie and Lara for setting up the cones.

The committee also discussed concerns about the "Missing Link" between Buck Road and the hospital, where pedestrians currently have to walk in breakdown or bike lanes.

Girl Brook Path Fundraising Discussion

The committee discussed fundraising efforts for a bike path project in Hanover. Bill expressed concerns about the scope of the project, as the current fundraising is for a shorter segment than originally planned. He requested a meeting with the town manager to clarify the project's vision and potential future extensions. The committee also discussed how estimating the cost of extending the path further would require an engineering study. Jennie proposed forming a fundraising committee to support the project. Bill emphasized the importance of coordinating with town staff and Dartmouth College. The group agreed to continue discussions with Rob and other stakeholders to align on the project's vision and next steps.

Parking Strategy and Sustainability Review

The committee discussed parking rates and fees, focusing on short-term parking availability and the town plan for a new parking study, as well as the possibility of moving the needle now on some of the parking goals, given the clear strategies presented in the sustainability master plan. They reviewed the sustainability master plan's goals and strategies related to parking, emphasizing optimization, boosting multimodal transportation, increasing sustainable development, pricing to manage demand, and aligning with community goals. The committee agreed to add this information to their website along with information on smart growth.

The committee also briefly mentioned a fee for parking on sidewalks. The committee discussed parking issues, particularly parking on sidewalks, with frequent problems reported on Currier Street, Allen Street, School Street and some other areas around downtown.

Electric Scooters and Other Electric micro-mobility devices

They reviewed a survey about micro-mobility and personal electric vehicles being conducted by Dartmouth, which community members can participate in by identifying dangerous locations and sharing their transportation experiences.

The group also discussed the need to update their winter maintenance policy to meet New Hampshire standards and considered sharing the Dartmouth survey with broader community members through the town's communication channels.

