

Hardwick Planning Commission
January 10, 2023
Zoom Meeting
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Joyce Mandeville; Ken Davis; Michael Haveson; Jim Lewis and Dave Gross, Chair

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator; Tracy Martin, Community Development Coordinator; Susan Grasso, Local Motion.

Absent: Shari Cornish

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:35 pm. Jim Lewis moved to approve the agenda as written. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor. Jim Lewis moved to approve the December 13, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Updates from the Community Development Coordinator:

None at this time.

Motion: N/A

Phase II:

Susan Grasso from Local Motion attended the meeting to provide an overview of the Hardwick- LVRT Connector Loop Proposal. The proposal examines the feasibility and the safety aspects of bicycle travel between the LVRT and the Hardwick downtown. Several suggestions are made to increase the safety and comfort of bicyclists who venture off of the LVRT and visit the downtown.

There are two LVRT trailheads on this loop – Depot Street, which has parking and other amenities, and the Memorial Park pause park, which connects directly to North Main Street.

Segment 1A – North Main – High School to Creamery Road. No short term recommendations. Consider centerline removal and the installation of fog lines.

Section 1B – North Main – Creamery Road to Church Street. Add 8 feet buffered bike lanes in both directions.

Section 2A – North Main – Church Street to Highland Avenue. Remove centerline. Add 6 feet to 7 feet buffered bike lanes in both directions.

Section 2B – North Main – Highland Avenue to “car” bridge. Remove centerline. Retain existing 8 feet parallel parking lane. Add 7 feet bike lane North bound.

Section 3 – North Main – Across “car” bridge. Remove centerline. Remove parallel parking (4-5 spaces). Add 5 feet bike lanes, both sides.

Section 4 – North Main – “Car” bridge to Route 15 intersection. Remove centerline. Replace 2 parallel parking spaces in front of Hardwick Inn with a bike parking corral. Retain angled parking. Add 5’ Northbound bike line

to Route 15 Intersection. Add crosswalk immediately south of car bridge. Add stop signs on Route 15 at the North Main Street intersection to create a 3 way stop.

Section 5 – Route 15. Add sharrows, both lanes (signs on ground). Add stop signs on Route 15 at the North Main Street intersection to create a 3 way stop. Improve crosswalk at Pedestrian Bridge with flashing light sign.

Section 6 – New park. Not discussed.

Section 7A – Daniels Road – new park to Brush Street. Highlight segment as a shared use space. Retain 1-way car travel. Permit 2-way bike travel. Add a stop sign at NE end of Daniels Road. Add a Keep Slow – Cars are guests sign. Add Except Bikes to Do not Enter. Add sharrows.

Section 7B – Brush Street – no additional treatment.

Section 8 – Highland to North Main St – no additional treatment.

Section 9 – Church Street – North Main Street to Depot Street. Remove centerline. Consolidate parking on south side by removing north side parking. Add 5 feet + traditional bike lane Westbound.

Section 10 – Depot Street – no additional treatment.

Commission members had concerns about consolidating the parking on Church Street. Ken Davis recommended using signage to encourage bikes to remain on the LVRT until the Memorial Park pause park. Tracy Martin agreed with Ken Davis' recommendation.

The proposal also made mention of installing a 3 or 4 way stop at Church Street/West Church Street/North Main Street. This was considered earlier by the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee. The concept was removed due to concerns about winter travel and trucks stopping on the hill. Michael Haveson noted that the Church Street/North Main Street area is well treated in the winter. The Commission discussed whether there is a standard for hills and stop signs. Susan Grasso will investigate the slope guidance and the existence of standards.

The Commission members discussed the configuration in front of the Hardwick Inn. The current angled parking allows larger trucks to be in the travel lane on North Main Street. The bike corral would replace a parallel parking spot that is accessible to most drivers. The suggestion was made that a conversation should occur with the property owner, Larry Hamel. Kristen will communicate with Larry (with assistance of the Town Manager, if feasible). Susan Grasso will examine the bike corral location further.

Motion: N/A

The HPC made note of which tasks in the Phase 1 (2020) recommendations have not yet been fulfilled:

1. Painting crosswalks with color. Originally slated to begin in spring 2021. Easy, relatively cheap. Needs to be accomplished.
2. The 25 MPH speed sign has been installed. General consensus is that the location in front of the Buffalo Mountain Co-op is less effective than prior to Glenside Avenue. **(Town Manager will be asked to clarify).**

3. Install signage to direct cars to alternate parking.
4. Educate younger riders about sidewalk and crosswalk safety.
5. Crosswalks
6. Stop/Wait/Wave signs have disappeared. Annual installation?
7. Upgrade town's parking area at Mill Street and Perry Street. Lot appears to be leveled and cleaned but the bike rack and the delineation of spaces are not present.
8. The parking spaces in the intersection of Routes 14 and 15 have been removed but vehicles continue to utilize the spaces. Enforcement? Better signage? Cones?

Kristen will bring the list to the Town Manager for updates and further information. A letter and/or presentation will be made to the Select Board at a later time.

The Planning Commission will review the concept of the loading and delivery space in downtown Hardwick at the next scheduled meeting.

Updates from Commission Members or the Zoning Administrator:

The Planning Commission received the Bylaw Modernization Grant to work on reviewing and updating the Hardwick Unified Development Bylaws so that housing stock may be expanded. More information will be provided at the February meeting.

Motion: Ken Davis made the motion to conclude the hearing at 8:15 pm. Joyce Mandeville seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

The next HPC meeting will be at 6:30 pm on February 7, 2023 by Zoom with an in-person option.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA