

# **Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation Annual Meeting**

## **MINUTES**

**January 18, 2017**

Steering Committee members present: Will Schoefmann, *Chair, City of Keene*; Michael Acerno, *Vice-Chair, Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS)*; Frank Dobisky, *Thomas Transportation*; Diana Duffy, *Keene State College*; Jan Manwaring, *Pathways for Keene*; Susan Thielen, *Keene resident*.

Guests present: Wink Faulkner, *Pathways for Keene*; Yves Gakunde, *City of Keene*; Andrew Harmon, *Keene resident*; Rebecca Harris, *Transport NH and Bike-Walk Alliance of NH (BWANH)*; Emerald Levick, *Monadnock Food Co-op*; Andrew Madison, *Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce*; Andrew Metell, *Keene Resident*; Sue Nelson, *Keene State College*; Nick Petersen, *Keene resident*; Linda Rubin, *Healthy Monadnock*; Douglas Barrett, Drew Bryenton, Tal Gregory, Sam Hawkes, Katie Kinsella, *(affiliations not provided)*.

SWRPC staff members present were Mari Brunner, *Planner*; Henry Underwood, *GIS Specialist/Planner*; Liz Kelly, *Planning Technician*.

### **I. Welcome from the Chair**

Chairman Schoefmann called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. He thanked HCS for the use of their space for the meeting and the Monadnock Food Co-op, The Works Café, and the Keene Hannaford Supermarket for providing refreshments. He also thanked SWRPC for providing staff support to MAST. He gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda and thanked attendees for coming to the meeting, noting that meeting packets and a sign-in sheet were located in the back of the room.

### **II. Minutes of December 21, 2016**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 21, 2016 MAST Steering Committee meeting as written.**

Motion by Susy Thielen, seconded by Frank Dobisky. Approved by unanimous vote.

### **III. 2017 Steering Committee Roster and Proposed Meeting Schedule**

Chairman Schoefmann read aloud the names of the 2017 Steering Committee members. The roster included Michael Acerno, HCS; Peter Hansel, Filtrine Manufacturing; Frank Dobisky, Thomas Transportation; Diana Duffy, Keene State College; Tammy Dwyer, Healthy Monadnock; Chuck Redfern, Pathways for Keene; Jen Risley, Monadnock Buy Local; Susy Thielen, Keene resident; Will Schoefmann, City of Keene; and Ivy Van, Town of Peterborough. He said that the proposed Steering Committee meeting dates for 2017 are April 19, July 19, and October 18 and that all were welcome to attend.

#### **IV. Presentation about MAST's Recent Activities**

Henry Underwood began a presentation, noting that several MAST members would be following him to provide information about activities conducted by MAST and its partners over the last several years. The presentation, entitled "MAST Recent Activities," is available at [www.mastnh.org/documents](http://www.mastnh.org/documents).

Susy Thielen presented information about the Rack It Up! program, an initiative that provides free bike racks to businesses in order to encourage bicycling as a viable form of transportation. She explained that the program has resulted in the creation of hundreds of new bicycle parking spaces throughout Keene, Swanzey, Hinsdale, and Troy, with plans to expand in other Cheshire County towns in 2017.

Mari Brunner spoke briefly about the Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) initiative and Complete Streets activities. PICH is a three year initiative led by Healthy Monadnock that aims to increase access to physical activity opportunities, healthy food options, tobacco-free environments, and tobacco cessation resources. As part of this initiative, SWRPC has been partnering with MAST to encourage active modes of transportation such as walking and bicycling. This work includes engaging communities in Cheshire County to develop local Complete Streets policies. To date, Keene, Swanzey, Hinsdale, and Troy have adopted policies.

Liz Kelly gave a presentation about Safe Routes to School (SRTS) activities that MAST has supported. She explained that SRTS is a national program that aims to increase the number of children who walk or bike to school.

Mari Brunner described a carsharing report that was prepared by SWRPC for MAST. Carsharing is a car rental model where cars are located in multiple locations throughout a service area. Vehicles can be accessed 24 hour a day and seven days a week by carshare members. The report includes background information about carsharing, three case studies, and recommended next steps.

Michael Acerno introduced the City Express online trip planner, which can be accessed at [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps). Henry Underwood described how to use the online trip planner to access information about City Express routes, bus stop locations, and the stop schedule.

#### **V. Guest Presentation: Statewide Transportation Initiatives**

Rebecca Harris gave a presentation about statewide transportation initiatives, including information about Transport NH and Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire (BWANH). Transport NH is the backbone organization of the "Statewide Transportation Initiative", supporting organizations throughout the state working to create an integrated transportation system that gives people options for getting around. She gave an overview of Transport NH's action plan and policy agenda for 2017. The policy agenda includes passing Complete Streets legislation, raising the cap on the municipal optional vehicle registration fee from \$5 to \$10, and promoting public-private partnerships. She also discussed New Hampshire Department of Transportation's (NH DOT) Statewide Transit Assessment, the NH DOT Balanced Scorecard, metrics for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit, and Transport NH's "Venues and Voices" online tool box.

Rebecca Harris also talked about BWANH, which is a membership organization that educates and advocates to improve walking and biking conditions statewide. The BWANH policy agenda

includes supporting bills that promote trails, bicycle friendly chip sealing practices, Complete Streets, and promoting the use of “level of traffic stress” analysis for measuring safety for bicyclists. Rebecca Harris asked attendees to join BWANH as individual members and encourage local bicycle shops and other organizations to join as business members. Attendees were given a handout with a list of actions to take to support transportation initiatives at the local, regional, and state levels. The presentation, entitled “Statewide Transportation Initiatives,” is available at [www.mastnh.org/documents](http://www.mastnh.org/documents).

## **VI. Presentation about MAST’s Upcoming Projects**

Mari Brunner explained that the MAST Steering Committee has identified four projects MAST will undertake in 2017. Subcommittees have been formed to manage each project. The first project involves coordinating “Bike to Work Week” events in Keene and potentially other communities in May 2017. The second project is a follow-up to the carsharing report that was developed for MAST in 2016. This carshare subcommittee will develop a work plan to look into the feasibility of establishing carsharing in Keene and the Monadnock Region. The third project involves working with staff from the City of Keene to identify opportunities for increasing the City’s ranking for the League of American Bicyclists’ “Bicycle Friendly Community” program. In future years, this subcommittee could expand into other communities. The goal of the fourth project is an education and outreach campaign that aims to raise awareness and knowledge of a municipal transportation fund supported by motor vehicle registration fees. This fund is enabled by NH RSA 261:153 VI.

## **VII. Breakout Groups**

Attendees interested in the Bike to Work Week project met with Liz Kelly, attendees interested in the Bicycle Friendly Community program met with Will Schoefmann, attendees interested in carsharing met with Mari Brunner, and attendees interested in the municipal transportation fund met with Henry Underwood. Attendees asked questions about each project and were encouraged to add their names to volunteer for each subcommittee. SWRPC staff announced that it would follow up with people who signed up to volunteer with more information and to schedule the first subcommittee meetings in February.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Brunner  
Planner