

Huntersville Greenway, Trail, and Bikeways Commission



Summary Minutes: March 16, 2021

Members Present: Diane McLaine (chair), Tim Sanborn (co-chair), Maria Reese, Kyle Shackert, Kaylan Chintalapati, Geoff Steele, Kelly Coleman

Members Absent: Robin Underwood, Kim Van Sickler,

Town Staff Present: Tracy Houk

Town Board Present: Commissioner Walsh, Commissioner Boone

Public Present: Lothar Kaierle – Huntersville Resident

Call To Order: Diane McLaine (chair) – 6:02 pm

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve February Minutes – Kyle Shackert
Second – Geoff Steele
February Minutes - Approved Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

Business:

- **Welcome new members** – Kelly Coleman and Kaylan Chintalapati
- **Canines on the Vine 5k**
 - Target Date - October 2021/ hopefully the new Rosedale Nature Park will be completed as well.
 - Can be a run/walk – encourage people to bring dogs, we have plenty of bandanas left and can order shirts for participants.
 - Primary goal is to bring awareness to "The Vine"
 - Planning committee: Diane, Kyle, Tim, Kalyan, Tracy
 - Monthly meeting prior to GTBC meeting – some may be able to be done via email
 - Event timeline –
 - Establish route – determine road closures if needed
 - Present to Mecklenburg County for permission to use the greenway
 - Establish cost
 - Reach out to local businesses in the community for sponsorships/support
 - Marketing 3-4 months out – Marketing committee lead
 - T-shirts ordered 2 - 1.5 months out
 - Geoff - Will Gilead Rd. widening hinder the event? The tunnel will be closed.
 - Nick promised - It will not be moving by October
 - Kaylan – dog costume parade/contest as part of the event
- **SAFE**
 - Staff talked and depending on the road, state/town, determines who creates the signage. If NCDOT has already placed some on state roads, then they will be well aware of it and know what needs to be done.
 - Diane – Are we ready to make a recommendation?
 - David recommends, if the GTBC wants to ask the town board to look into this, go ahead and create a resolution vote on it, make a presentation, invite SAFE to speak – then let the Town Board to make the decision.
 - Diane will create the motion verbiage to send out to everyone, Tracy will reach out to the SAFE guys to let them know we are writing something in support of it and ask if they want to do a presentation as well.
 - Kyle has been speaking to some of the cycling community and has received some recommendations on where the best places are for these signs to be placed.

- **Greenway Stations**
 - <https://www.instagram.com/p/ClwudMMBte9/?is>
 - "Rideable Art"
 - David - Has the county experienced this or know of anywhere they have seen this?
 - This would be a good amenity for a "spur" of the greenway
 - Tracy will reach out to Meck Co. to see what they think as well as Knoxville staff to get a little more info on where it is located and how it works.
 - Geoff has concern on safety and liability, a possible "sub park" connected to the greenway, but not "on" it.
 - Tim – agrees with Geoff and maybe we should look at placing it in a specific area where people know about it.
 - Kyle – Check out Velosolutions Pump Track Gaston: <https://pumprack.com/track/velosolutions-pump-track-gaston-usa/>
- **Board Presentations**
 - Introduce SAFE, communicate our support and take an opportunity to show our appreciation for their recent support in funding the 2 projects.
 - Purpose is to keep the Town Board in the loop with what the GTBC is working on as well as continue to advocate for funding greenways, trails, bikeways to the Town Board.
 - Tim - Check in the Google Docs for topic ideas/suggestions
 - May meetings work best, this will give us time to create the resolution – contact SAFE and get everything on the TB agenda.
- **2021 Events**
 - Marketing drafts/templates have been made, everything just needs to be customized to be event specific. Sponsorship packet is still in the works.
 - Maria will share the materials with the group.
 - Hello Huntersville/LaLaCaboosa/Growers' Market
 - Tracy will send list of events and dates - a sign-up link can also be sent.
 - Marketing materials will be updated for the events as well as maps
 - Look at getting other specific groups out on the greenways on special days, moms & strollers / retirement communities

Updates/Comments

- **Torrence Creek Stream Restoration Project / NMP MTN bike trail**
 - Still in progress – work has moved west of the stream
 - Trail has been closed since August 2020 – will remain closed through August 2021
 - Tracy and Kyle will meet out at the park to look at the route and see how it needs to be re-routed. Will work with the Tarheel Trailblazers and volunteers to get the trail re-routed
 - The trail does need a lot of maintenance and it would be a great opportunity for a GTBC trail work day. We can also mark it with "The Vine"
 - Kelly has scout troop connections – possible "Scout Volunteer Day"
 - Tim mentioned the IB students as volunteers – 100 hours are needed
 - The town will construct a paved greenway segment to connect Amber Field Dr. to NC 73.
 - We are waiting on the from the City of Charlotte "ok" to move forward with the project
 - Some of the small connections from the 2020 Bike Plan will lead into the new North Meck Park greenway.
- **Mayors' Challenge t-shirt monies raised**
 - \$225.99 raised for greenways – is now in our sponsorship line
 - Good info if we want to create wearable swag for "The Vine"

Not on agenda...

- The new artwork for the tunnel on Trib II
 - The initial concept was sent, this is not the final art.
 - This is an Arts and Science Council project, fully funded by them.
 - Send Tracy feedback ASAP
 - Meck Co. TR has concerns on the lighting and disabled people using it
 - Geoff – Is there any interest in coordination with the northern towns to create a website/info on events that are going on in the towns? Who would be in charge of doing this, could the planning dept. help?
 - Tracy – we can put links to the greenways of the other towns on our page would be the easiest. Trying to manage specific would be hard, it is also one more page residents would have to go to find out info.
 - Possibly reach out to the Herald to see if they have room for a section.
- **New Code of Ethics – April 2021 Meeting**
- Tim – “Roots of the Vine”, new press release that we are sending out as items come up. Please add topics to the google docs if a topic comes up.
 - Master Plan will be added when town staff have completed their part.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:09 pm - Motion – Kyle Shackert, Seconded – Tim Sanborn

Approved Unanimously



Street Access For Everyone, Inc. (SAFE)
Bikes May Use Full Lane vs Share The Road

On January 12th 2020 the Lake Norman area lost Earl Gillon, one of the most respected and well-known cyclists in the area. Earl was the victim of a crash with a motor vehicle while returning home from one of his many weekly 100+ mile bicycle rides. Earl was a very experienced rider, logging around 25,000 miles annually.

Earl's death spawned a movement to make streets safe for cyclists as well as all street and road users. SAFE was born out of this movement.

In our first year we have worked with the towns of Mooresville, Davidson and Cornelius and have shown that the current "Share the Road" signs do not provide a clear message as to the rights of cyclists on our streets.

A study published by researchers at North Carolina State University in August 2015 confirmed that "Share The Road" is a problem. The authors of the new study – both NCSU faculty – surveyed nearly 2,000 people and found that there was "no statistically significant difference in responses between those who saw 'Share the Road' signage and those who saw no signage" whatsoever in terms of their comprehension that cyclists are permitted in the center of the travel lane; that cyclists do not have to move right to allow motorists to pass within the same lane; or that motorists should wait for a break in traffic before passing in the adjacent lane.

<https://www.bikede.org/2015/08/29/share-the-road-is-a-problem/#page-content>

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0136973>

Our goal at SAFE is to work with towns throughout the area to bring the message to motorists that cyclists may legally use the full lane.

Mooresville, Davidson and Cornelius have agreed with that assessment.