



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY &
UTILITIES COMMITTEE

c/o Department of Public Works
645 Pine Street, Suite A
Post Office Box 849
Burlington, VT 05402-0849

802.863.9094 VOX
802.863.0466 FAX
802.863.0450 TTY
www.burlingtonvt.gov

Councilor David Hartnett, Chair WARD 4
Councilor Maxwell Tracy, WARD 2
Councilor William “Chip” Mason, WARD 5

Inquiries:
Nicole Losch
802.865.5833 DIRECT
nlosch@ci.burlington.vt.us

Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Monday, August 20, 2012 at 5:00 – 6:30 PM

645 Pine Street, front conference room

–MINUTES–

Members present: Chair, David Hartnett
Maxwell Tracy
Chip Mason

Others present: noted below

Chair Hartnett called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

1. Agenda

Hartnett removed Item 5 (plan BTV) and moved Item 9 (Booth Street) to 4.a.
Mason moved to accept. Tracy second. All in favor.

2. Public Forum

None, but Hartnett noted possible return to item if public arrived before 5:15 pm.
Mason moved to end public forum. Tracy second. All in favor.

3. Minutes of 6/7/2012

Mason moved to accept. Tracy second. All in favor.

4a. Booth Street Speed Bumps

Norm Baldwin, DPW Assistant Director: Booth Street was one of the city's original traffic calmed streets with more aggressive designs. DPW field inspector checked for compliance with current standards and the newly paved speed humps do meet standards, which are less aggressive than previous design. If changed, the city would liable for using a non-standard design.

Tracy: has neighborhood petition that will be sent to DPW, neighbors don't feel lower speed bumps are as effective and inquire about other options.

Hartnett: understands need for traffic calming but not sure of speeding problem on this short street.

Baldwin: speed humps and roadway narrowing are most extreme traffic calming options, not sure of other options.

4. Champlain Parkway

Baldwin: Act 250 appeal process outlined in staff memo provided. Mayor and City Council resolution for grid network is proceeding as a separate project. Mayor is communicating with State.

Mason: amendments and process for amount spent to date and amount available?

Baldwin: spent \$6.7 million and have \$6.5 million available for contracts, which should be less than maximum liming authority. Still in discussions with consultants and attorneys for contracts underway. Upcoming amendments should be small but none currently planned. State to process Amendment 4 first. Timing is difficult because of Act 250 process and review. Amendment 3 is not exhausted yet.

Hartnett: any updates in future would be helpful to stay on top of progress before issues arise.

Baldwin: stormwater design is needed for Act 250 and grid design.

Mason: would be beneficial for Council to hear about appeals and timeline; will ask Joan Shannon to put project attorneys on Council agenda.

5. Removed from agenda

6. SunCommon

Roger Cole: company is doing great work.

Clary Franko: organization is a spinoff of VPIRG and seek to make solar more cost effective and accessible. No money down and monthly payments less than utility bills. Burlington focus because city is behind – rentals, slate roofs and permit problems to blame. South Burlington passed Council resolution encouraging solar effort, wonders if TEUC or Burlington Council would consider the same?

Mason: resolution process allows any councilor to bring forward a resolution, not just TEUC.

Hartnett: how is program funded, and is it like BED?

Franko: financed through loan or solar provider, not utility bill.

Mason: has looked at program, and found system confusing.

Franko: various options because of roof type and appropriate solar type. Agreement with home owner power provider, gets credit on utility bill in sunny months, then “pay” with credit accrued during winter.

Roger: condo options?

Franko: condos are more complicated but feasible.

Tracy: what are zoning challenges? Resolution would pass, but what needs to change for it to have “teeth?”

Franko: permit and inspection process is cumbersome. Working with Mayor to improve but not sure of details.

Mason: NYC may have examples. What is organization’s status?

Franko: needs financial capital so registered as Benefit Corporation with triple bottom line: people, planet and profit.

Jon Bossange: how does investment work, how can condos share, and how is SunCommon involved?

Franko: SunCommon takes options and matches best for loans/payments then gives options for financing. Group net metering concept allows anyone connected to BED to share a meter.

Hartnett: who is participating in Burlington and what other community is a good model?

Franko: no installs yet because of permit/inspection process but 3 ready and 40-50 in queue. South Burlington has more success – 26 new and 10 before project; no permit requirements beyond state requirements.

Hartnett & Mason: can present to full Council? Bring Mayor’s permit improvements?

Bossange: suggest laying out various alternatives for typical homeowners.

7. 2013 VTrans Bicycle Pedestrian Grant Application Candidate

Nicole Losch, DPW: state grant program for bicycle/pedestrian projects, design/construction but not planning. Interdepartmental review of city candidates, vetted through Mayor's office. Seek support for Colchester Avenue shared use path, to bring current path up to minimum width standard and expand path to west. Project would create shared use path on south side of Colchester Ave from East Ave to Prospect Street.

Charlene Wallace, Local Motion: has provided letter of support for project. Encourages design considerations and funding outreach for project, and looks forward to moving onto larger projects and more plans in the future.

Bossange: Supports this project, but why were Bike Path Feasibility Projects not ready?

Losch: projects were too large and small projects were not developed enough to be standalone projects yet. Other small projects would be effected and possibly changed when larger projects are implemented, so now is not the right time to pursue. City expects to be ready for bike path projects in 2013.

Mason moved to endorse Colchester Avenue shared use path as the city's grant candidate. Tracy second. All in favor.

Hartnett & Mason: if awarded grant, encourage FAHC and UVM to attend TEUC and discuss financial support and collaboration for project.

8. Complete Streets Implementation

Tracy: June Complete Streets Workshop was good start but wants to keep energy moving forward.

Losch: suggested resolution similar to resolution establishing TEUC, focusing on process definition.

Hartnett: suggested coordination with Peter Potts.

Tracy: will coordinate with 2 interested Public Works Commissioners.

Hartnett: acknowledged large projects moving forward and need for TEUC to meet regularly. Proposed 3rd Tuesday of each month, beginning on October 16 at 5:00 pm. Will consider different meeting spaces throughout town to encourage more neighborhood and resident involvement.

9. Adjourn

Mason moved to adjourn. Tracy second. All in favor.

Adjourned at 6:08 pm.