

Burlington Department of Public Works Commission Meeting
Draft Minutes May 15, 2019
645 Pine Street – Main Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Robert Alberry, Tiki Archambeau, Jim Barr, Chris Gillman, Brendan Hogan, Solveig Overby and Peggy O'Neill Vivanco

Item 1 – Call to Order – Welcome – Chair Comments

Commissioner Archambeau called the Public Works Commission Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item 2 – Agenda

Unanimous approval

Item 3 – Public Forum (3 minute per person time limit)

Sophie Quest Colchester Ave bike issues, 2 accidents involving bicyclists, make it safer for bicyclists.

Andy Simon – In favor of two bike lanes on Flynn Avenue; we need to balance out the needs of motorists and cyclists.

Halina Dooley – UVM has concerns about the intersection of University Heights and Main Street intersection. We noticed a lot of distracted drivers, it is a high risk high crash location – look at options to alter traffic signals, paint intersection.

Jacki Schultz – Expressed she is happy with sidewalk work, but we need more cleaning of the streets from April through October.

John Bertelsen –A cyclist; two arteries uphill are not friendly and on the downhill not everyone is comfortable riding with parking on the downhill side.

Nina – Asked about the impact on residents, including where will people who live on Colchester Avenue park if parking is removed. There are a lot of houses here that do not have proper driveways.

Steve Norman lives in the New North End and is a crossing guard at the intersection of Shore Road and North Avenue. He stated there still needs to be further improvement to slow people down. Would like to see new signage that also has the French language on them.

Liam Griffin stated on both Flynn Avenue and Colchester Avenue we need to move people safely through the corridors.

Jason Van Driesche – Supports bike lanes in both directions. He asked how proposals were structured stating they need to make Flynn Ave work in both directions for bikers.

Richard Watts supports SGA President’s comments. The more bike lanes the better.

Allegra William – Local Motion – Supports bike lanes and submitted petitions for both Flynn Avenue and Colchester Avenue bike lanes.

Jack Hanson – Burlington City Councilor – Talked about emissions, climate change and how Vermont emissions are up and we must deal with the problem. Supports adding protected bike lanes on Colchester Avenue.

Brennan Guerrier of Ward 3 stated that both Flynn Avenue and Colchester Ave are unsafe for bicyclists as there is reckless and fast travel on both streets.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

A. Proctor Place Parking Prohibition

Commissioner Gillman made a motion to accept consent agenda
Commissioner Barr seconded
All were in Favor.

Item 5 – Flynn Avenue Safer Biking Infrastructure & Parking Adjustments

Staff presented on the topic. There is currently parking on the north side of Flynn Avenue from 300-208 and on the south side from Pine to Oakledge. Under the proposal, the majority of parking would be removed (some would be notched into the greenbelt on the north side), and there would be a crosswalk installed at Foster. The majority of feedback the department received from the community is in favor of removing parking, installing bike lanes and adding a crosswalk at Foster St.

Commissioner O’Neill asked about the design of the parking proposed to be notched into the greenbelt on the north side of Flynn.

Commissioner Hogan asked about the communications to residents and property owners.

Elizabeth Goehringer of Public Works stated that the residents of Flynn Avenue from Pine to Shelburne Street would get another mailer and/or flier from DPW describing two options and that the staff is planning to bring a recommendation for that section to the Commission in June

Commissioner Overby stated support for parking-protected bike lanes.

Commissioner Archambeau asked staff to clarify where bike lanes are being proposed. Staff replied.

Jason Van Driesche stated that there should be a parking count on Flynn Avenue and side streets. He also added that when the letter goes out to explicitly ask people which option they prefer. Specific feedback is very important for projects.

Mr. Brookes supports the plan and the crosswalk at Pine and Shelburne.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept staff's recommendation and language. Commissioner Gillman seconded. Unanimous approval.

Item 6 – Colchester Avenue Safety Improvements and Parking Adjustments

Staff provided an update on the lane and parking evaluation on Colchester Avenue.

Commissioner Overby asked staff to look whether some parking could be notched into the greenbelt.

Commissioner O'Neill supports the bike lanes and we need to think about how to move people more safely through the area.

Jason Stuffle stated that Colchester Avenue is a gateway to the city should have an off-road multi-use path.

Pat Sealan stated that on Colchester Avenue, there is no sign to welcome people into Burlington and lanes are not clearly marked. She would like to see Burlington on the list of most bikeable cities.

Brook supports bike lanes in both directions but feels that safety is important and the way Colchester Avenue is right now it is not working right. Colchester Avenue residents can park on the side street and maybe put in a crosswalk on the hill to slow down traffic on the hill.

Nash Place resident Dave Crowley stated his support for a bike lane on the north side going uphill. Neighborhood parking needs to be addressed as well and requires community involvement.

Jason Van Driesche stated he biked down Colchester Avenue and it was a miserable experience. A bike lane will make it work better and should be a priority. There needs to be better markings and signage at the bottom of the hill of Colchester Avenue.

Matt Dooley is a property owner on Colchester Avenue and he stated that his tenants need the parking on Colchester Avenue as their driveway is small and does not have enough parking.

Deborah Craft stated that Colchester Avenue favors cars and has never served for cyclists.

Would like to see a crosswalk at Chase Street so people can park on Chase Street. Would like to see a crosswalk if possible for traffic calming by the Kampus Kitchen.

A Colchester Avenue resident stated that there are a lot of college students on Colchester Avenue and there is not room on the side streets for parking and he needs his vehicle for work as he works in Montpelier and he parks on the street.

A property owner on the hill discussed challenges of parking on a side street.

Commissioner Barr stated the crosswalk at Chase Street is coming and a community group he participates in is working on signage as you enter the city from Winooski.

Commissioner Overby stated that she is looking forward to the proposal.

Commissioner Gillman stated he would like to see a compromise for Chase Street and Barrett Street.

No action was taken.

Item 7– Main Street and South Winooski Avenue Surface Lot RFP

CEDO staff member Jesse Freedman presented on the RFP that their department is planning to release to explore potential redevelopment of the surface parking lot at the corner of Main and Winooski.

Chair Archambeau expressed significant concerns about selling City assets, and about the manner in which the City is looking to fund the Memorial Auditorium improvements. No action was taken.

Item 8 – Pipe Assessment Public Hearing

Water Division staffer Greg Johnson presented on the ongoing pipe assessment project and the public hearing that is required as part of the State's Revolving Fund. VT DEC staffer Robert Pelosi gave a brief primer on the process for the State's Clean Water State Revolving Fund. No action was taken.

Item 9 – Minutes of 4/16/19

Commissioner Barr stated that Item 10 should be corrected.

Commissioner Hogan would like to see Proctor Place parking lined out to show that that was removed from consent agenda.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes.

Commissioner Alberry seconded.

Unanimous approval

Item 10 – Director’s Report

The Director reported on:

-) The Water Division reorganization
-) GMT’s NextGen route changes on June 17 and service improvements

-) Bike and Scooter Share draft contract will go before TEUC on May 23rd at 7:30 p.m.
-) FY20 budget preset in packet that was sent to City Council

Item 11 – Commissioner Communication

Commissioner Barr stated that hill institutions are bringing forward an updated Parking Management Plan for public review.

Commissioner O’Neill asked for clearer process for submitting inquiries on specific topics.

Director Spencer stated the process is to contact Customer Service or submit via See Click Fix and it will be entered into See Click Fix which starts the process.

Commissioner Overby stated that Archibald Street has been patched up and asked if additional work was planned. Intervale Road needs patching.

Director Spencer clarified that segment of Intervale Road was added onto paving list. There is a concern about the water that is always on Elmwood Avenue and Peru Street.

Commissioner Hogan stated that GMT real time arrival information for bus service is valuable as his family was waiting for the bus that morning not knowing whether they had missed it or not. He also added that this is nearing the 6th year anniversary for Mayor Weinberger announcing the goal of having the City recognized as a ‘gold-level’ bike friendly community and we have not achieved this goal.

Commissioner Archambeau commented on the new sidewalk on Walnut Street.

He also commented that many roadway markings and bike lanes are gone. Director Spencer said we expected the contractor to complete the work over the coming month.

Item 12 – Executive Session

Commissioner O'Neill made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the annual performance review of the DPW Director and City Engineer.

Commissioner Barr seconded.

Unanimous approval.

Commissioner O'Neill made a motion to move out of Executive Session.

Commissioner Barr seconded.

Unanimous approval.

Item 13 – Adjournment and Next Meeting. Next meeting is June 19, 2019.

Commissioner O'Neill made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Barr seconded.

Unanimous approval.