ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hogan called meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Chair Hogan stated that the Trades Appeal would no longer be on the agenda.
Commissioner Barr accepted
Vice Chair O’Neill Vivanco seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM –

Jason Van Driesche stated during public comment that he wanted to follow up on the letter he sent out to the Commission. He is asking to not recommend reappointing City Engineer Norm Baldwin to his current position. He understands that last year was difficult for all City Department but the city needs to reprioritize what we set as ambitious goals but we want to because the best small city to walk and bike in. We need a modern approach to street design, we need to shift gears and think about streets in different ways. He asked the Commission include in their assessment that they received this feedback from a Burlington resident.

Kelly Devine of the Burlington Business Association spoke about the Commission’s upcoming decision on the removal of 24 parking spaces on Battery Street for the bike path detour. She stated that the BBA did not hear any significant concerns from taking away the parking except for retail owners in that two block area. We were enthused by the reception that we got from Assistant Director Jeff Padgett and Director Spencer to provide private parking at the Pease Lot as an alternative during the construction period. Kelly asked for clarity from DPW and Parks/Rec on how supplemental parking would work to accommodate local, downtown businesses.

Jason Stifle spoke in support of the the waterfront detour but asked why it was an afterthought to the whole construction process.
ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

A – Reallocation of Adams Ct 2-hr Parking Zone
B – North Avenue & Berry Street “No Parking Zone”
C – Design Vehicle Manual Update

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded
Commissioner Overby stated the design vehicle manual update was the same as we got in the last meeting. She did contact DPW Engineer Darisse who added language to make clear that this was dealing specifically for intersections with stop signs or stop lights and was informed that other design guidance would be forthcoming, including on roundabouts.

Unanimous approval

ITEM 5 – BIKE PATH DETOUR

City Engineer Baldwin gave an overview on Waterfront construction, its impact on the bike path and the proposal to provide a more comprehensive bike path detour. He then introduced Planner Sophie Sauvé from the Parks Department and Director Cindi Wight to further explain the sign package for the detour.

Planner Sauvé described the proposal, which included:

DPW Staff is recommending the DPW Commission to approve 7 no parking spaces on the west side of Battery Street beginning at Maple Street and extending north to Main Street.

Accessible spaces designated on the north side of King Street in the first parking space east of Battery Street. On the north side of King Street in the second parking space east of Battery Street.

The proposal will temporarily remove 14 parking spaces between Main Street and King Street; ten parking spaces between King Street and Maple Street. This includes the relocation of two accessible parking spaces on King Street just east of Battery Street. When the greenway project is complete, DPW staff will seek approval from the Commission to remove the temporary no parking restrictions and temporary relocation of the two ADA spaces; this will revert the traffic regulations on the west side of Battery Street to existing conditions.

The purpose of the temporary no parking zone is to provide all road users space to travel, which includes motor vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. The need is to create a
safer street for all road users, while bicycle and pedestrian traffic is temporarily detoured. The purpose of the ADA parking relocation is to provide accessible parking on street as recommended by the Public rights of way Accessibility Guidelines.

Due to the displacement of the greenway in this section during construction is to safely accommodate thousands of greenway users during what is expected to be a significant rebound year for 2021 tourist/outdoor recreation season in Burlington.

Commissioner Bose asked how many businesses would be affected on Battery and if there is an estimate of number of customers impacted by parking.

Parks Planner Sauvé answered that CEDO has done direct outreach with the businesses and the City has worked to determine how best to accommodate businesses, including hours needed.

Commissioner Bose is happy that this is moving forward.

Commissioner Overby stated this was the best plan to get people biking safely through this area.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated this is great and needed. She points out that if there are 75,000 greenway users, they are also potential patrons of those businesses. Suggests to point this out to the businesses. This is a big area and parking is generally underutilized. Asks for clarity on what kind of negotiations the City can have with private lots?

Parks’ Planner Sauvé stated that through the BBA we are working to reach out to options. Parks also runs Pease Lot and Perkins Pier which may be able to provide 10 spaces for accomodations.

Commissioner Archambeau is glad to see this plan come forward. Notes it feels reactive and thanks staff for the work.

Commissioner Barr stated that this is great for pedestrians, great improvement for access. Does hope we can follow through on parking access and provide wayfinding.

Commissioner Hogan is excited to see this moving forward, notes it is later than idea and asks what the expected duration of detour.

Sophie Sauvé stated that Phase I is starting ASAP – within the next two weeks; Phase 2 working toward the end of June/beginning of July, lasting to December.

During public comment, Jonathan Weber from Local Motion spoke and is glad to see things moving forward to make it safe. Need to address construction impacts during the
planning phase. Brought forward concerns months ago, but no progress until recently as far as we can tell. We will be glad to assist in maintaining the path, but City should not need to rely on advocates to speak up and then to also maintain a detour. Works against City’s stated visions and goals for walkability/bikability. The looper will work because of volunteers who go out and fix the cones daily but a permanent barrier would be better.

Jason Stuffle said that he echoes all of Jonathan’s comments. Provide biking infrastructures people will use, connectivity is the key. If there are breaks in connectivity, people won’t use it.

Director Wight thanked DPW staff for their support of the project.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept staff’s recommendation. Commissioner Archambeau seconded. Unanimous approval.

ITEM 6 – TRADE’S APPEAL 441 SHELBURNE STREET

Removed from agenda, resolved prior to meeting.

ITEM 7 – APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES OF 4/21/21 & MARCH 20212

March 17, 2021 Minutes

Commissioner Barr made the motion to accept the March minutes with the edits as stated.

Commissioner Archambeau seconded.

Unanimous approval

April 21, 2021 Minutes

Commissioner Archambeau made a motion to approve
Commissioner Barr seconded

Commissioner Bose had abstained from vote due to being absent at meeting.
Unanimous approval

ITEM 8 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Spencer commented on the City Engineer’s performance. He has provided a memo to all commissioners highlighting what an excellent staff member the City
Engineer is, he goes beyond for the projects going on throughout the city. He urges the Commission to reappoint the City Engineer.

At the June Commission meeting, Director Spencer notes that DPW will have a report on the Colchester Avenue scoping project as well as the consolidated collection information.

He notes that Water Resources is going to the City Council and Finance Board on May 24th for their rate increase.

He mentions that he has attached a report for review of Departmental goals and objectives.

ITEM 9 - COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Barr stated he is happy with the city’s work in street sweeping which makes his ride even better. Appreciates everyone’s efforts.

Commissioner Bose stated he brought to DPW leadership and staff some concerns about crosswalks and crossings at Champlain Elementary. In speaking to constituents, they have appreciated the attention that was brought to the issue.

Commissioner Overby stated the short run sidewalk repair is making a big difference and is a welcome change from just doing long run repairs.

Commissioner Overy asked some questions about the mid-year review. On #7 Improving Capital Project Accounting, is DPW now able to provide life to date balance?

City Engineer Baldwin stated that we have a new system will be more timely and fulfill a higher degree of accounting. He is confident his team is improving and we can have great confidence in the financials that we have. Have always been able to provide real time information to auditors, but there have been challenges for projects not directly managed by Tech Services. The goal is to have more real time information in New World. Confident that systems are improving.

Commissioner Overby had a question about #8 provide effective coordination with private projects and was wondering if there were project managers that contractors reported to.

City Engineer Baldwin stated that while it depends on the project, a senior manager on his team is ultimately responsible.
Commissioner Overby had a question about #9 expanding preventive maintenance program. Is there something that we can look at to see where the work was done?

Director Spencer spoke about the future ability of asset management to store and display this data. Asset management is being launched later this year.

Commissioner Overby had a question about #15 – Integrating Parkmobile. Is the 194 St. Paul Street parking garage at Champlain College using the same payment kiosk system as Main Street surface lot?

Director Spencer stated yes they are ‘Cale’ pay stations, which are part of the City’s payment infrastructure.

Vice Chair O’Neill-Vivanco referred to the letter about bike lanes to downtown and wants to know where Downtown BHS fits into the plans. When will we have information on connecting Pine Street and what will that look like? We need to look at the infrastructure to match users needs. How do we follow what is coming up through PlanBTV? Prefers CCRPC and the City not collect data on how students are getting to Institute Road – the facility will be offline for years.

Hopes for a clear process moving forward on the minutes. And expressed gratitude for what DPW has done through a challenging year.

Director Spencer stated that last year we did South Winooski Avenue bike lanes, Pearl Street before that. There are upcoming projects this year: 2 way protected bike lane coming to North Champlain Street and a shared use path on Mansfield Avenue. There are other improvements that we can explore.

Chair Hogan expressed gratitude for everything DPW is doing.

Commissioner Barr exited the meeting at 7:35 p.m.
Commissioner Bose exited the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

ITEM 10 – EXECUTIVE SESSION – DIRECTOR & CITY ENGINEER ANNUAL REVIEWS

Vice Chair O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to exit Executive Session
Commissioner Archambeau seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT 7 NEXT MEETING JUNE 16, 2021

Commissioner Archambeau made a motion to adjourn
Vice Chair O’Neill-Vivanco seconded
Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.