

BSVA MINUTES — 6-27-17

ATTENDANCE: MJ Adams, Josh Befell, Jeff Dawson, Alex Ghiselin, Mark Jewell, Sue Norton, Regine Spector, Norm Spencer, Diane Welter

TRAFFIC CALMING?? Regina reported on the June 20 meeting of the city Transportation Commission under Chair Ryan O'Donnell. No TC news on any front: Nonotuck, Riverside, or Federal St. Jo Comerford is working for a traffic count and reduced speed limit on Federal. Nonotuck activists want changes at the recent bike-death site. It seems only the state has the authority to change speed limits or put up stop signs, and their rules are rigid. For example, a 2-way or 4-way stop sign requires 5 car accidents at that site in the last year. On a more positive note, Jeff reported on a recent email from O'Donnell: There will be another traffic count on Riverside this summer, altho there's as yet no plan for traffic calming there.

MORE TRAFFIC CALMING!! Mark Jewell, a traffic engineer who lives on Liberty Street, showed us a copy of "Bike, Walk, Northampton," which is the city's new plan for incorporating bicycles and pedestrians into motorized traffic. Altho BayState's intersections are mentioned, there are no specific plans for us. Mark thinks BSVA needs to organize. We need to form a traffic subcommittee that would develop a "schematic design," a plan for one specific area, like the intersection at Nonotuck and Hinckley, or the one at the bottom of the high school hill. The plan would be temporary at first, so cheaper than one with permanent changes. Regine and MJ volunteered to work with Mark as part of the BSVA traffic committee. They will also contact Jo Comerford and an organizer from the Nonotuck St. activists.

COMING EVENTS: Newsletter articles have to be in to Diane by July 25. Folding party at Regine's August 5, 10 AM. Picnic at Maines Field, Sat., August 19, 3-7 PM.

Submitted: Sue Norton, Secretary