

Huntersville Greenway, Trail, and Bikeways Commission



Summary Minutes: February 20, 2024

Members Present: Ken Stuart (Chair), Maria Reese, Geoffrey Locke, Elaine Kerns, Randy Suggs, Michael Griffin, Tim Turton, Sally Walker

Members Absent: Christianna Beirne

Town Staff Present: Heather Maloney, David Peete

County Staff Present:

Town Board Present: Alisia Bergsman, Commissioner

Public Present:

Call To Order: Ken Stuart – 6:03pm

Approval of Minutes: Motion to table to March meeting – Approved Unanimously

Question was asked about where previous meeting minutes can be found- is the Town website where those are saved and/or accessible?

Agenda Changes: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

BUSINESS:

- **Appointment of Co-Chair for 2024**

- Motion to elect Jeff Locke as Co-Chair – Approved Unanimously

- **2024 Goals**

- Review of 2023 Goals and Accomplishments Powerpoint; updates were made to the file and saved as 2024 Goals
- Review of our Goals and Objectives related to the “8x8 Vision” to “fill in 8 miles of sidewalk gaps over the next 8 years by connecting every neighborhood, park, school and major shopping area” and the objective to “increase education about Greenway Plans with Huntersville Commissioners” led to a discussion about the Bike Plan’s recommendations for **sidepaths** along most major roads, and how *sidepaths* differ from *sidewalks* only in width, but that width makes them a multi-use path that serves as a bike AND pedestrian facility. Discussion centered around the need for more education of the Town Board about the need to fund the Bike Plan recommendations, and the role that the GTBC can play in advocating for more sidepaths
 - *Action item: Can the GTBC be given cost estimates for the difference between sidewalks and bike lanes vs sidepaths*
 - NCDOT is on-board with sidepaths along their roads, they just won’t fund them outside of a roadway project. So getting sidepaths along major roadways that aren’t scheduled for improvements or repaving is difficult to fund.
- *Action item: Can we update the progress made towards the 30x30 and 8x8 visions*
- *Action item: Can we add green projects to the Transportation Projects Map on the Town’s website?*
- *Action item: Can we get Gwen to come to a meeting in the near future and give us an update on their next steps/projects on the horizon?*

Updates/Comments

- Sidewalk/Sidepath - see above
- Dates for Spring Wine on The Vine
 - Last year's was before Memorial Day
 - This year, Easter is earlier so we could possibly find a date in late April
 - Keep it on a Thursday
- Huntersville Bike Routes
 - Jeff is going to get an updated map to the Town to determine signage and cost needs

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned – 7:34pm



HUNTERSVILLE

CONNECTING NEIGHBORHOODS - CREATING COMMUNITY





GTBC Goals & Accomplishments 2023

November 28, 2023

2023 Goals and Objectives

Purpose:

Make Huntersville a connected, walkable, bikeable town by 2030

Goals:

- 30 x 30 vision - Connect 30,000 residents to the Greenway by 2030 through Spine on the Vine (East, West, and North)
- 8 x 8 vision - Fill in 8 miles of **bicycle & pedestrian** gaps over next 8 years by connecting every neighborhood, park, school, and major shopping area

Objectives:

1. Increase Education about Greenway Plans with Huntersville Commissioners
2. Provide Community Awareness
3. Participate in Committee Volunteer Projects
4. Implement Greenway, Trails, and Bikeways Expansion

Increase Education of Greenway Plans with Huntersville Commissioners

Objectives	Achievements	2024
Present at 1-2 commissioner meetings on GTBC updates	January presentation	Ongoing
Email outreach campaign and conversations with commissioners	Ken and Jeff communicated with most commissioners and the Mayor throughout the year.	Ongoing
Promote Greenways in the Huntersville App	TBD	

Increase Community Awareness about GTBC

Objectives	Achievements	2024
Develop marketing materials for Greenway education and events	Updated maps for events Created a Talking Points sheet	Ongoing
Promote GTBC on Social Media, HOAs, and News Develop 2-3 content pieces to promote via Social Media	April article in LKN Citizen about “Year of the Trail.” WOTV Events and other Vine updates on social media (FB)	Ongoing
Host two events to raise awareness of GTBC and plans	Held Two Wine on the Vine events which were a success Ken spoke at the Ribbon Cutting at Rosedale Greenway Trailhead sculpture Install Feb SculpTour Sept	Ongoing
Update Greenway on Google Maps (ask Heather)	Town Staff is working on it	
Work with Town and County Staff to provide online map of planned/funded greenway projects	Greenways have been added to the Transportation Projects Map on the Planning Department’s website	Ongoing

Participate in Community Volunteer Projects

Goal	Achievement	2024
Identify Trails to Clean or Mark	May/June cleaned and marked the Huntersville Athletic Park trail	Ongoing
Participate in Safe Routes to School Event	May 3 - Jeff and Tracy supported the Torrance Creek SRTS event	Can we partner with a donut shop and any other business and sponsor an event along the Downtown Greenway?
Field Trip to local or out of town trails to gain insight	Some members explored on their own and brought back intel	Keep

Expand Greenways, Trails, and Bikeways

Goal	Achievement	2024
Identify Opportunities to add signage for bike trail connections	Jeff presented a map of 18 miles of unofficial pathway with some recommended priorities to place signage. Some sample signage was presented also.	Ongoing
Revisit existing plans and identify criteria with priorities for focus.	Jeff updated the criteria and priority spreadsheet. Maria, Ken, and Jeff did a greenway tour and presented highlights and discussed biggest needs. Landed on: 1. Downtown connection between 27 a & 24A 2. West connection by Stephens GRove 25 3. East Connection by South Prong 24B	Ongoing Can we get the County to update us on their priorities and progress?
Identify opportunities to connect more schools with greenways, trails, and bikeways		Ongoing

Expand Greenways, Trails, and Bikeways

Goal	Achievement	2024
Explore Future Projects and Gain Community Input	- Applied for Raise grant for Holbrooks area but did not secure - NC 73 crossing passed - Tunnel under I-77 being worked on - Vine will grow by 10 miles over 4 years to a total of 17 miles and 78% funded.	Ongoing

My Connect To Purpose..... Dad's hit & run on his bicycle

- Oct 28, 2023
- 84 year old
- St. Charles, IL
- Riding on street to get groceries early evening
- Hit and Run
- Fractured neck and lower back. Back surgery.
- From ICU, to Rehab, to Home recovering

**We need safe and accessible
Greenways!**



