

Huntersville Greenway, Trail, and Bikeways Commission



Summary Minutes: September 10, 2024

Members Present: Ken Stuart (Chair), Geoffrey Locke (Co-Chair), Elaine Kerns, Randy Suggs, Christianna Beirne, Maria Reese, Michael Griffin

Members Absent: Sally Walker, Tim Turton

Town Staff Present: Tracy Houk, David Peete, Heather Maloney

County Staff Present:

Town Board Present: Commissioner Bergsman

Public Present:

Call To Order: Ken Stuart – 6:02 pm

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve August meeting minutes – approved unanimously

Agenda Changes:

PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

BUSINESS:

- **Review Goals**
 - see attached
- **Biketober Block Party**
 - Date: October 19
 - Time: 2:00 - 5:00 pm
 - Location: @760craftworks
 - Confirmed Sponsor: Blue Oak Realty
 - Partners: Carolina Thread Trail (if they can find someone), Trek of CLT, Huntersville Police Department
 - Activities:
 - Bike Safety with Huntersville Police Department
 - Bike Maintenance with @trekbikescharlotte
 - Free Youth Bike Helmets
 - \$1.00 off beer from @760craftworks IF you ride your bike to the event.
 - Live Music – Jim Cooper (played at Wine on the Vines)
 - Yard Games
 - Apostle 'Que Food truck
- **Presentation Topics for the Town Board**
 - Project updates, miles on a map with downtown connector, benefits of greenway.
 - Plan to attend the October 15 Town Board Meeting
 - Week of Biketober event, good time for one last promotion

Updates/Comments

- **Huntersville Bike Routes**
 - The route received staff approval
 - Working on getting quotes for cost and number of signs.
- **Connecting the Downtown area to the greenways, Downtown Greenway to South Prong Clarks Creek (running through Vermillion neighborhood)**

- Staff is looking at options. The main goal of the GTBC is to keep this on the radar as new road projects and developments start to happen.
- A consultant is looking at improvements to this area for non-motorized and motorized traffic.
- **Project Updates**
 - **McDowell Creek**
 - Phase 1b – Chilgrove to Gilead Rd.
 - Bridge was set last week, construction is approx. 80% complete, no date has been set for completion as they are waiting on materials.
 - Phase 2 – NC 73 to Chilgrove
 - Construction authorization and supplemental agreement has been achieved, bidding will open sept. 5
 - Phase 4 – Gilead Rd. to Beatties Ford
 - 50% design, working with stormwater project, 3 of the 4 properties needed have been secured on the north side of McDowell Creek.
 - Phase 4b – Gilead Rd. restroom
 - Bidding is planned in 2 months (November/December)
 - **The Park – Huntersville**
 - Working on the design with Dewberry, the first public meeting should be the end of October/first of November
 - **North Mecklenburg Park**
 - Close to 100% plans, hope to go to bid by November 2024
 - **73 Pedestrian Bridge**
 - The engineering firm is working on a rendering of the bridge for our review.
 - **Maxwell Ave. Woonerf Study**
 - Public charrette scheduled for October 17-19, 2024
 - **Safe Streets for All (SS4A)**
 - The town was awarded \$240,000 in funding to complete a Vision Zero Safety Action Plan.

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned – 7:41 pm

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	Not a priority (the app is still under construction)	

Increase Community Awareness about GTBC

Objectives	Achievements	2024	Status
Develop marketing materials for Greenway education and events	Updated maps for events Created a Talking Points sheet	Ongoing	Updated map re "The Seam"
Promote GTBC on Social Media, HOAs, and News Develop 2-3 content pieces to promote via Social Media	April article in LKN Cltizen about "Year of the Trail." WOTV Events and other Vine updates on social media (FB)	Ongoing	Tunnel posts; wine on the vine; Biketober Block Party
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	Vine on the Wine (Apr); Biketober Block Party (Oct)
Update Greenway on Google Maps (ask Heather)	Town Staff is working on it		GIS coordinator 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	Done

Participate in Community Volunteer Projects

Goal	Achievement	2024	Status
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?	Bike/ped counts at school locations to measure demand
Field Trip to local or out of town trail to gain insight	Some members explored on their own and the club is planning to do a group trip	Keep	Look for opportunities

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	Working on it
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?	Downtown connection is main priority
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 (complete) - Vine will grow by 10 miles over 4 years to a total of 17 miles and 78% funded. - Tunnel under US 21 (2026 construction)	Ongoing