

Age-Friendly Shepherdstown Committee
January 26, 2023
M I N U T E S

Attending: Marty Amerikaner, Steve Ayraud, Marcy Bartlett, Stacey Kendig, Susan Kern, Steve Pearson, Linda Spatig

Linda called the meeting to order on Zoom at 12:02pm, noting that minutes of the December meeting had been approved by email earlier and submitted to town clerk, Amy Boyd.

1. Steve Ayraud reported from the Bike Path working group. He shared the latest version of the bike route on our screens. The route connects all of Shepherdstown's local parks. It also connects with the entrance to the C&O Canal, and includes additional nearby destinations such as the Shepherd University Wellness Center, Maddox Square, the WSU Medical Center, the new library, and Morgan's Grove Park. Stacey Kendig reported that the route is acceptable to Shepherd University, with the caveat that the part of it in front of Turner Hall may need to be changed once decisions have been made about new construction in the East Loop area of campus. After discussion, the committee approved this version of the bike route.

We discussed the unpaved part of the route where High Street ends at University Drive on Shepherd University's West Campus. We agreed that a priority should be to finish that stretch of the path. Marty agreed to contact Andy Beall and/or Frank Welch to get an estimate of the cost of doing that.

Steve said there is a need for more bike racks in the parks as well as other areas of town. It was suggested that some individuals and organizations might be willing to donate bike racks.

Steve reported that anticipated signage for the bike path would include on-street signage as well as posted signs. This will be coordinated with the Wayfinding Project.

Marty Amerikaner agreed to assist with getting the bike path proposal on an upcoming Parks and Rec Committee meeting. If Parks and Rec approves the project and route, we plan to bring it to Town Council for approval. At that point, we plan to publicize the town council discussion of the project so that community members will have a chance to join the meeting to ask questions, share concerns, and make suggestions.

2. Marcy Bartlett reported for the Fall Prevention Working Group. She now has eight members of the group. Their first efforts will be identifying areas of concern on sidewalks and streets. They will begin that work later this spring. Marty agreed to get Marcy a copy of a recent survey town staff did of the worst areas of sidewalk in town

limits. She may also want to communicate with the Comprehensive Plan subcommittee working on this same issue.

3. Linda Spatig reported for the Wayfinding Project. The group met earlier this month and brainstormed ideas about Shepherdstown that could be used in developing a slogan and symbol for “branding” the town in future signage. Linda reported that the designers, after developing a slogan and symbol that captures the essence of Shepherdstown, will propose a system of signage – including both large structures such as a kiosk and smaller road signs—that the Jefferson County Convention and Visitors Bureau will help us fund/implement.
4. Linda Spatig communicated with Holly Frye at Shepherd University about the possibility of partnering with the town on the EPTA shuttle in a way that would extend its current campus route to include downtown and other nearby local destinations such as the new library, Maddox Square, etc. Holly offered to set up a meeting with Linda, Holly, and the head of the EPTA to discuss this further.
5. Next meeting was set for Thursday, March 2, at noon, via zoom.