

Age-Friendly Shepherdstown

March 28, 2024

MINUTES

Attending: Marty Amerikaner, Marcy Bartlett, Bob Smiles, Linda Spatig

Approval of January Minutes with corrected meeting date

Old Business

1. Greater Shepherdstown Bike Route.

West High Street extension:

Marty and Stacey met with Shepherd University administrators twice (the first person retired and was replaced by the second) to discuss the “goat path” where West High Street ends just before University Way. Both administrators reported that Shepherd’s property ends where the Outstanding Professor of the Year Award is located. Marty will request that a statement to that effect be put in writing.

Marty also met with a WV Highways Dept employee to discuss the “goat path.” Marty was informed that the Dept of Highway’s right of way extends from German St. to the utility pole. Marty secured a written statement to that effect.

Signage:

With Stacey’s assistance, we received written statements of approval from Shepherd University to place bike route signage on campus. Further, SU administrators approved using signage design that is consistent with wayfinding bike route signage throughout the rest of the town. University administrators stipulated that university staff should be involved in the actual installation of signage on campus. This is in order to prevent any damage to university property.

We discussed the need for additional signage for safety purposes. One is signage indicating that the part of the bike route that includes the sidewalk around the SU Football Stadium must be shared with pedestrians. The other is signage- possibly a small stop sign – at the end of any future paved extension of West High Street. This would be to alert bikers that there are upcoming roadways with vehicle traffic.

Next Steps:

1. Marty will seek information about possible Jefferson County ownership of the “orphan streets” that are part of the bike route.

2. Stacey and Marty will speak with SU administrators about additional safety signage for the football stadium area sidewalk part of the bike route.
3. Marty will work with the Public Works Committee to assess the need for sharrows on the bike route and the needed stop sign on the W High St. extension.
4. Linda will seek information about the current status of the Jefferson County Wayfinding Project proposed signage for Shepherdstown.

2. Downtown Fall Prevention and Safety

Park Assessments

Marcy reported that of the four critical tripping repairs needed at the parks, two have been completed and two are being scheduled. Maintenance is being addressed by the Shepherdstown Parks and Recreation Committee and town employees.

Next Steps:

1. Begin assessment of walkways in the commercial part of German Street. Marcy will initiate this process, possibly including training based on information from Ron Eks' report about ADA guidelines for towns as well as other sources.

New Business

We discussed the possibility of delving into additional items from our Age-Friendly Action Plan, specifically the need for additional means of town transportation and the need for more affordable and accessible housing in town.

Next steps:

1. Linda agreed to revisit these issues with Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority. Linda will seek a dollar figure on possible services.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 25 at 12:30

