

## Town of Laurel Park

### **Parks and Greenways Board Bicycle Advisory Committee**

**April 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**3:00 PM Town Hall**

Todd Plessel – Member – P&G Board  
George Banta – Town Council Representative

Catharin Banta – Member – Laurel Park  
Joe Sanders – Member – Blue Ridge Bicycle Club

**1. Call to Order: The Laurel Park Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) was called to order at 3:05 PM on April 8, 2024. Joe Sanders recorded the minutes. Catharin Banta was absent.**

**2. Approval of Agenda: The April 8, 2024, agenda was approved.**

**3. Approval of Minutes –The minutes from the February 12, 2024 were approved.**

**4. Public Comment: There were no public comments presented at the meeting.**

#### **5. Old Business**

- Climbing Lane - The paved lanes are in place and will be striped later this Spring. Joe Sanders will work with the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club to cut a check for \$15,000 to help pay for these lanes.
- Suggestions for additional climbing lanes: Todd suggested the lanes can be extended further on Laurel Park Highway. #1 Priority to Roark #2 Priority to Poplar Spring. George will ask Town Council if they have funds for an uphill bike lane at Laurel Park Highway and Rork and possibly also at Poplar Spring.
- Ecusta Trail Updates (Joe & George):
  - It was reported that there seems to be growing frustration in the Community over the lack of accurate information regarding construction activities and completion dates for the first six miles of the Ecusta Trail. In 2023, the Henderson County Engineer stated the goal was to have this first phase completed by December 2023 as a Christmas present to the Community. Then the completion date slipped to November 2024. A recent report put the completion date at December 2024. In a Trail Partners meeting the date for completion was posted as March 2025. One comment that was received indicated a citizen is regretting donating to the project as there doesn't appear to be accountability.
  - No other updates.
- Recommendations for bicycle amenities near Ecusta Trail (All)
  - Drinking fountains and maybe restrooms. Parking: The First Congregational Church has tentatively offered parking during times other than during church services.

**6. General – The Bike Committee will meet quarterly unless significant issues require meeting more often.**



Joe Sanders