

Minutes
April 7, 2021 – Zoom call
6:00 pm

Present:

Heidi Baker, Rockport
Andrew Stancioff – Camden
Anita Brosius-Scott – Camden
Geoff Scott – Camden
Richard Stetson – Camden
Helen Shaw – Rockport
Margo Murphy – Rockport
Alison McKellar, Camden Select Board Liaison

Absent:

Lynda Clancy – Rockport
Jane Self – Camden, Alternate
Robert Davis – Camden
Jeff Hamilton – Rockport Select Board Liaison

Mar Minutes – Accepted as amended

Committee Membership – do you need to be a resident of the town? Doesn't seem to be a requirement. **Action** – **Anita** to follow up with Will Galloway as possible Camden Alternate.

Future Meetings – Committee discussed the idea of continuing on zoom for meetings into the future. In the end, decided once covid restrictions are gone, we'd like to meet quarterly in person, the rest of the time on zoom. **Action** – **Geoff** to send Bob Falciani a note about that recommendation for the Select board to consider at some point in the future. Reminder, we need another Rockport member. Please keep this in mind and bring forward possible candidates.

Maritime Farms – request for bids should go out in May according to a recent report from Jeremy, along with the Washington St sidewalk extension. Likely that bids will come in higher than the current budget. Audra feels these are important projects to get done. Likely will need to go back to the towns for additional matching funding.

Riverwalk – Knowlton St – Geoff reminded Camden Public Works about erosion issue near the Lions Club. They have it on their repair list for the summer. Beth Ward, Parks and Rec, asked Dave to help with this project.

Riverwalk - Wastewater Treatment Plant – as part of the Camden June warrant, there will be a change in zoning proposed for the WWTP. This will change the parcel that is currently zoned Village and make it consistent with the zone of the other parcel the plant is built on, Business. Please get the word out to support this change. Not only does it make sense for the WWTP, but it will help during construction of the Riverwalk across these two parcels. Related, the group discussed whether we should move forward applying for an RTP grant for construction of this section of the Riverwalk. This is a long section and there are a number of expensive aspects of the project like potential fencing, crossing wetlands, etc. **Action** – **Geoff**

to speak with Doug Beck at MDOT who manages the RTP program and get his input. Will report back at next meeting.

Route 90 – High School might be pushing something independently – facilities director this week said something that indicates that something may be moving forward. **Action** – **Margo** will look into more details about what’s being discussed. Heidi has heard that there’s discussions at the Elementary School, where they want to increase outdoor classrooms; perhaps accessing Erickson Fields. This section of Route 90 is getting a lot busier because more and more destinations are being added: Erickson Field, Marge Jones, the two Schools, MRC, etc. **Action** – **Heidi** will find out more details and report back after connecting with Margo.

Perhaps there’s some way Rockport could be a pilot MDOT is interested in doing for an island crossing concept. Whether we qualify could be related to how many entries are occurring from Market Basket to the light. Number of entrances could enable a change in speed limit, then the island-crosswalk concept could work. Coordinate with conversations going on at high school.

Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) – should we have them come in to do a presentation to the group? 1 1/2 years ago Andrew met with BCM in Brunswick. They are looking for community groups that would be interested in public education re crossing a street safely, bike riding safely etc. He feels that what they present is very comprehensive for vehicle/bicycle confrontation. 1 hour presentation. Also would be beneficial to help us think about what to LOOK FOR during the sidewalk survey. Andrew feels that the presentation would put us all on the same page re what to look for. BCM has a very large pedestrian section now – branching out to pedestrians. Speed is a big problem with pedestrian-vehicle accidents.

Alison suggests a broader audience – Camden Library? Input/requests from parents re safety, kids, bikes, sidewalk vs road riding etc. Andrew said that BCM does a lot of outreach, education for children. He suggests this presentation would be about more of the mechanics – crosswalks, signs, lights etc. Suggestion of including Public Works from both towns. Alison also sugg’s Police Dept. **Action - Andrew** to ask BCM what public officials should be involved.

Bike Awareness – Public Works part of the Camden [website](#) now has info about advisory lanes. Go to Camden website, Public Works, “Complete Streets”. Eventually we’ll be adding info about sharrows as well, and anything else appropriate to Complete Streets work in Camden.

AARP Age Friendly Communities - Knox County as a whole was designated an Age-Friendly Community in 2019, application was made by MCH, Inc. in Rockland.

Community Contact for the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities:

Elisabeth (Liz) Schuh – Executive Director of MCH, Inc. Liz will “gather community conversations throughout Knox County and work with local towns and cities to build upon their strengths and assist them in identifying and developing plans for addressing community needs. ... County-wide effort will address a wide swath of the needs of the region”. Approach will be collaborative. [Emphasis on enabling older residents etc. to remain safely in their own homes]

“Collaborative work will be employed to develop strategies for filling additional or continuing gaps in communities’ needs in Knox County.” The [Knox County Livable Communities Coalition KCLCC](#) includes...YMCA, Pen Bay Medical Center...etc”

“...Many communities and service organizations collaborate on ways to help residents with a variety of challenges, including ...transportation challenges, The KCLCC will coordinate with all of these efforts to assess and plan collaboratively how best to address community needs that have already been identified as well as others that are identified by our upcoming community assessment.”

“This framework [AARP Age-Friendly designation] will allow us to seek grant funding for specific projects either county-wide or in specific communities tailored to the needs identified in the county-wide survey.”

Is there a limit to # of grant apps coming from the county? Alison - Camden is the largest contributor to county funds – this would be a great opportunity for the county to support Camden. Theoretically when we want to apply for a grant, maybe County could assist in grant app? Should try to do something through them as “proof of concept”. **Action – Anita** to do more homework on size of grants – let’s see if we can fit a project into this type of funding Also report on categories that they fund.

Sidewalk Survey -putting off until more are vaccinated; When to begin? Helen says May is best for her. Heidi volunteers to assist Helen in Rockport. Margo has been seeing a lot of people trying to cross at the intersection of 17 and 90.

Easements – Geoff has completed doing drafts for easements for landowners to allow folks to cross land. Ready to give Audra, waiting til after the Budget process. He took verbiage from Coastal Mountains Land Trust and tweaked it. Created two versions – simple 2 page “Trail License” does not commit landowner in perpetuity; other is a formal easement, includes survey, permanent. Committee feels this is needed so amenable landowners can be approached to develop public access across their property (like sidewalks, pathways, Riverwalk). Alison talked to Audra about this – who said we need a template. She says we should work everywhere where an easement is possible. Heidi may have ideas (land trust). Her org is doing more of that. GRLT is all about easements. Geoff proposed to Audra ages ago that he would draft something up to run by town attorney. Need different ones for different scenarios. Heidi – asks if Rockport has been approached, include Bill Post in this effort, see if they have anything. Could apply to a pathway on Transfer Station property and neighboring properties. **Action – Geoff** to send drafts to Audra.

Merryspring – has the committee spoken with Public Works and Merryspring about a possible trail below the power lines from John St. through Public Works property to connect into the Merryspring trails? Not really. There were some efforts 20 years ago to connect to the High School, but there were a number of challenges: steep terrain, lots of wetland. Terrain is so steep in some parts that it’s too steep for bikes unless switchbacks. And some of the property owners weren’t keen about the idea. Maybe start by getting permission from Camden Public Works.

Adjourned 7:30
Next Meeting May 5