

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee
Minutes
June 7, 2017 – Rockport Town Office
7:00 pm

Present:

Geoff Scott –Camden
Leni Gronros (minutes) – Rockport
Richard Stetson – Camden
Robert Davis –Camden
John Titus – Rockport
James Francomano – Rockport Development Director
Lynda Clancy –Rockport
Andrew Stancioff – Rockport
Anita Brosius-Scott – Camden
Mac Thomas –Camden
Owen Casas – Rockport Liason

Absent:

Helen Shaw – Rockport
Jane Self - Camden

May Minutes:

The minutes were accepted as amended.

New Members:

Lynda says Tuck Hood is interested in the Rockport committee opening. Geoff says Bill Buchholz might be interested in a Camden Alternate seat, but is away for the summer.

Route 1 by Maritime Farms:

- Geoff reported that he had a conversation with MDOT in which he confirmed:
 - MDOT draft plan doesn't have paving drawn in the planter in front of Maritime, the final version will.
 - Maritime Farms was contacted by MDOT and is good with the plans and happy to be given the chance to see what is being planned.
 - Crosswalks are only painted by MDOT for streets not business entrances, so painting crosswalks across business openings (like Maritime and Country Inn) is beyond the scope of this project.
 - Though the draft plans don't show it, the intent is to have curbing the entire distance.

- Discussed whether to press MDOT on the issue around speed limits on this section. Particularly whether we should advocate to lower the speed limit from 45 to 35 the entire distance from Hannaford to Rte 90. Committee decided to delay discussing, as a separate item after this Rte 1 sidewalk project is completed. Worried about disrupting/distracting from the project. Consensus was to postpone discussing the issue.

- **Action - Geoff** was asked to put forward the question to MDOT to consider constructing the crosswalk with light controls to Cedar Crest sooner rather than later in the project.

Riverwalk:

- Segment from Knowlton past Camden Villa (other side of river) to WW treatment plant.
- We have 2 years, which started March '17, to get the ROW straightened out and to spend the grant money. Talks to continue with affected property owners.
- Issue re. easements across properties, same issue could arise where the land is used as collateral for the loan for any abutter. Owen – the Natl Park Service consultant had some advice on this issue. She said it relates to appraising the property to see if the value does not decrease with easement? What is step one, bank or owner? Would be good to have a stand-by answer should the owner raise concern about the bank's issues.
- Committee reviewed benefits of property owner benefits:
 - Tax benefit – the more land put under easement, the greater benefit to the property owner.
 - Could include in property benefits – easy access to ADA-compliant pathway. Rivewalk will tie in to sidewalks on Knowlton
 - No cost to owners – town is footing the bill
 - Property owners would be joining the town's effort to become a more walkable community for his residents.
 - Town will be burdened with the care of the easement, taking that burden from him
- Mac: pointed out there are power lines that run along some of the Riverwalk alignment. **Action - Mac** will look into utility easements and find out about any mortgages on abutting properties.
- **Action - Mac** – wants to check on reason for loss of Maine Community Foundation grant (\$7500 for getting some easements)
- Mac asked whether Wyatt is aware about the pathway being discussed re building of new middle school. Geoff has discussed with Maria Libby; also checked with Wyatt, he said the landscaping company says “This would be a great place to integrate the Riverwalk.” A key design person from Oakpoint, consultants on the CRMS, is Tyler.
- We must be sure that the Riverwalk remains as part of the Middle school redevelopment plans.
- Some suggestions that we avoid Camden Villa property and go down Lyons Lane or use crosswalks and sidewalks between middle school and bus barn.
- Next meeting, meet at 6 pm at the Lions Club to walk this and other sections of the Riverwalk.

Route 90

- Lynda and Leni are meeting with Ron Howard. They have \$3k already to extend Erickson Field path up to Beech Hill.
- Leni wrote that PW Comm supports the Round the Mountain trail but no money commitment.
- Met with Ian Stewart from CMLT regarding mapping. CMLT is interested in creating a map where all the trails are located in the town.
- The group working on Beech Hill and adjacent areas are part of a Rte 90 Groups. They are interested in the larger area surrounding Route 90.
- No word from MDOT on 90/1 intersection.

High Sidewalk in Rockport –

Committee will schedule a **grand opening / ribbon cutting** and opening reception – wait a couple of months until Bill Chapman is back. PW Comm is hosting it with Rockport. Propose date; Saturday morning – July 22, 10am. Could have ice cream in the harbor park. SB could scoop the ice cream. Meet at Cramer Park at bridge, walk to harbor park. **Action - Lynda** will coordinate and bring forward to SB.

Route 1 North – MDOT came to Camden, put the same plans on the wall from a year ago. MDOT will return June 21, 4-7pm, meeting for the abutters. Route 1 North committee will be pushing MDOT to address the issues outlined in the letter sent to MDOT in January. Most of the requests are driven by context-sensitive design, and MDOT basically said No to pretty much everything.

2004 letter of agreement between Select Board and MDOT for High Street reconstruction was expressing context-sensitive design; could become a good template for discussions. Push for a compromise or “exception” on a case-by-case basis considering rock walls, trees etc. MDOT has Guidelines not Rules. Leverage Dave Miramant, who is on Transportation Committee. Keep pushing for 5’ shoulder where possible.

Rockport RTP Grant options

Option 1: Country Inn Way connecting Rte 1 to Camden St was a road with sub-surface done. What do we need to do with it? Redevelop as a pathway. **Action** – **Geoff** to speak with Byron Haining who owns a good section of this old road now.

Option 2: Connector between Brook Street and back of Rockport Opera House.

High School running path

Work should start this summer. No action recently.

Adjourn 9:17pm

Reminder – next meeting July 5, 6 pm at the Lions Club to walk the Riverwalk segments near there. Formal meeting begins 7 pm WSC.