

**Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee  
Minutes  
July 3, 2019 – Camden Town Office  
7:00 pm**

**Present:**

Geoff Scott (minutes) – Camden  
Lynda Clancy – Rockport  
Helen Shaw – Rockport  
Anita Brosius-Scott – Camden  
Richard Stetson – Camden  
Margo Murphy – Rockport  
Robert Davis – Camden

**Absent:**

Owen Casas – Rockport  
Andrew Stancioff – Camden  
Jane Self – Camden, Alternate  
Jenna Lookner – Camden Select Board Liaison  
Jeff Hamilton – Rockport Select Board Liaison

**June Minutes** - The minutes were accepted as written.

**New Members** - Leni will not continue with the committee. Heidi Baker has expressed interest, but doesn't seem to be responding. Leni suggested Bobby Morgan at Flatbread.

**Action – Geoff** to follow up. Suggestion we have a student representative as an Alternate. **Action – Margo** will speak with Annika Charland and her father about interest level.

**Route 1 by Maritime Farms** – No update.

**Riverwalk – Knowlton Section**

Inland Fisheries and Waterways wrote a memo that they no longer believe there's a nesting heron colony. Dan Ford has been contacted and should start construction again within the month. As part of Camden SB presentation, suggested the half of the Wastewater Treatment Plant property zoned Village be changed to Business, same as the other half of their property. SB said we can't make that request because we don't own the property. **Action – Geoff** to continue to pursue. Changing to Business would reduce the setback requirement for the Riverwalk, and it makes sense. Dave Bolstridge, Director of the Treatment plant agreed. Margo pointed out that having people able to walk along the river will create more caring concern for the river. Preservation vs Conservation. Preservation is keeping the conditions the way they are, conservation is caring for quality of the river corridor, including the water quality. Engineering can be complimentary to conservation. Conservation is what the engineers would do removing the dams and re-engineering the river. There is interest at the SB to reconstruct habitat and the river, including removing dams, essentially conserving the river corridor.

One of the goals was to extend the current construction work into the Wastewater property using the funds remaining from the existing grant. The Town, Jeremy and Audra, are concerned about the wetlands, both in the Wastewater property and on all other properties along the proposed Riverwalk. They would like us to come up with a plan for the entire Riverwalk with details about issues related to wetlands, easements, and other land use issues. Despite Geoff having called DEP, and their encouragement to apply for a permit to construct, Jeremy felt there just wasn't time to get it all done before end of the year. Jeremy and Audra advocated to instead develop a spur that would follow the Wastewater Treatment property line where it means the Lion Club. This spur would allow people to connect to the middle school near the bus barn.

Committee agreed that we should invite Alison to a meeting to discuss conserving vs preserving the river corridor. Alison would like the Pathways Committee to get behind the restoration project. **Action Geoff** to set up meeting before Margo goes on vacation.

What needs to be done: find \$\$ for G&D to do engineering - \$5-6K. We have 6 months left to use the money (end of 2019). 3 months to get the permits; historically G&D takes 3 months to do engineering.

Geoff spoke with Doug Beck, MDOT about support for using the grant for a spur leading up the bank to Lions Lane and a spur going down to the dam. He was supportive, but would like to see the plans. He said that if steps were necessary, that would be fine within the conditions of the grant, but that we should try to avoid them if possible. Committee supported constructing both spurs and let the Wastewater Treatment section go for now.

Alison wants to know if the PW Comm would support keeping the existing bridge over the dam if the dam were removed. This is the dam just upstream of Knowlton Street. The dam belongs to Matt Orne and is currently closed. Committee agreed that it was a good idea, but would have to be reasonable to engineer, and Matt Orne would need to agree to allow the public to access both sides of the bridge.

There was a suggestion to develop a common vision with the Select Board Also suggested we develop a social media campaign building education and interest in the Riverwalk and other pedestrian and bikeways.

**Action – Geoff** to copy Bob Falciani on the letter from him and Leni that went to the Rockport SB regarding consideration of Pathways when deliberating other town projects. There is concern that if Pathways (and committees in general) don't stay engaged with the town SB's that the boards will become more autocratic.

**Route 90** no update

**Route 1 North** no update

**Bike Awareness – Action – Anita and Andrew** will come up with some tactical urbanism experiments to bring back to the committee and then we will present to SB. This SB has urged us to look rather at painting reminders on the road rather than posting signs around town. For example, pick a road to paint with a temporary bike lane or

sharrows or simply bike awareness messages. Run a test on some section, hopefully this summer. One idea would be to do some painting on Mechanic St, Park St. to Simonton possibly. Another part of this project is to come up with an awareness ‘master plan’. That is a plan showing all the areas around town which would be good targets to help create bike and pedestrian awareness. The master plan would show a network of roads, indicate those we would focus on (where people more regularly ride bikes) and add verbiage for recommendations; including where signs might go.

**Town process for consideration of bike/ped facilities for any new projects. Action – Geoff** still working on to discuss with Audra.

#### **Easements – Riverwalk and otherwise**

It was agreed to secure easements when we can for pedestrian access. Camden is supportive of the process if the easement makes sense. Next step **Geoff** to draft up an easement for the town to review and use. Even if an easement is complicated because of shoreland zoning, we should attempt to pursue. One never knows if the zoning or setbacks may change.

**Downtown Drainage Project (Camden)** – when Geoff presented to the Camden SB, it was offered that the Pathways Committee come up with some recommendations for streetscaping. The committee discussed and unanimously agreed to reach out to both Conservation Commission and the Downtown Design Group to ask if they would like to collaborate. **Action – Geoff** to email Robert with draft of downtown plan from the Design Group. Geoff, Anita and Robert volunteered to work on this project.

**Sidewalk Survey (Camden)** – committee decided to update the Camden Sidewalk survey in August and September. First step **Action – Geoff** will draft up forms and come up with street assignments. **Margo** suggested we engage students in the survey work.

**Rawson Ave Bridge** – it was discussed how to provide input to the Select Board on their decision. Decided that we have a workshop with the SB, Town Mgr, Planner on how to proceed. **Action – Geoff** to look into.