

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee
Minutes
August 1, 2018 – Rockport Town Office
7:00 pm

Present:

Geoff Scott –Camden
Helen Shaw – Rockport
Richard Stetson – Camden
Anita Brosius-Scott – Camden
Jenna Lookner – Camden Select Board Liaison
Lynda Clancy –Rockport
Leni Gronros – Rockport
Jane Self – Camden, Alternate

Absent:

Andrew Stancioff – Camden, Alternate
Jeff Hamilton – Rockport Liaison
Robert Davis –Camden

Guest:

Representative Owen Casas – Rockport
Etienne Perret – Camden

There were no cookies at this meeting, again. It's becoming a significant trend.

July Minutes

The minutes were accepted as written.

New Committee Members:

Geoff approached a number of people with no luck. Owen is considering. Everyone please keep asking folks. We need 2 in Rockport and an alternate in Camden.

Maritime Farms – Rockport SB will be voting on Aug 14th whether to use reserve funding for the first MDOT invoice related to the Maritime sidewalk construction. Liaison Jeff Hamilton of Rockport SB supports the payment. Helen related that Megan in the town office says there's \$55K in sidewalk reserve fund, funding which has been added to over the past 3 years. This funding can be used for any sidewalk project. Aurele @ DOT emailed Geoff that they advertised the project today. They will know in 3 weeks appx how much the project will actually cost. Concern expressed that quotes will be high because of high construction costs. Discussion as to whether the money is available in Rockport and if it will be used for Maritime or something else. Geoff will go to Rockport SB meeting along with Leni and Helen. Public comment emails could be sent, to be read into the SB record. Geoff has letters of support from businesses, can demonstrate they

have them. How about a letter from QH? Lynda pointed out that Rockport SB approved the Pathways Master Plan and this project is in that plan. Also pointed out that it's mentioned in the new Comprehensive Plan draft. Concern is that the Rockport Chair has expressed that perhaps reserve funds would be more appropriately spent maintaining existing infrastructure.

Riverwalk – Knowlton section. Bids went out and were opened. Looks like we'll have enough in the grant to cover construction and probably also the spur to the waterfall, or maybe use to extend to Wastewater. Geoff will present to Lions Club next week, they will want to discuss again. Y is in favor. DEP said we need an NRPA for the entire length of construction because of the slope. NRPAs take min 4 months. Have been able to avoid this permit process in the past by using a Permit by rule. Jeremy Martin said that will not work here. Geoff communicating with **Doug Beck**, MDOT guy who manages the grant. He is inclined to keep grant open as long as they are moving along. Lions Club meeting is Tuesday 7th August 6:30. Leni will be there if he can.

Riverwalk, longer range – future sections of Riverwalk will be constructed through parts of the town where zoning is more constraining re shoreline. There will be a minimum of a 75 foot setback from the shoreline. DEP says stone dust pathways are impervious surfaces and cannot be built within 75' of water. Jeremy advocating for possible workaround. Julie Isbill - Geoff asked if she had encountered this elsewhere and she said it sounds like a town zoning issue. Jeremy has said that DEP (state) has had several towns talk to them about the same issue. He was talking to Colin Clark, DEP rep for our area, who is very familiar with shoreland zoning. He said that there's no workaround, probably only through legislation. Appeal to ME legislature, partner with other Maine towns that wants same thing. Owen happy to work with Miramant if it's within the state's purview. It seems that all the successful construction within 75 feet has been on old railroad beds, part of rails-to-trails. Owen says it's not a shore, it's a river, which has banks. Geoff called DEP 10 years ago re construction in a wetland; they said it's ok in the wetland. So getting a mixed message. Knowlton section is not affected by DEP rule. **Anita** – **Action** look into 75' DEP rule, share info with Owen. Though this is a TOWN-ENFORCED ordinance, it falls under DEP guidelines. Town enforced zoning ordinance can be more constricting than the state zoning ordinances, but not less. Question pervious/impervious. Geoff – feels like a legislative approach that allows towns to put in wording that allows it. **Action** - **Owen** will talk to Dave Miramant.

Route 90 – **Action** - **Lynda and Leni** will contact Margo Murphy before school starts about getting the students connected with MDOT, probably Patrick Adams, regarding a crossing on Rte 90 in front of school. Rockport Comprehensive Plan Committee spent a lot of time on C/R Pathways Master Plan. It was reinforced – “implement what's in Pathways Master Plan” – **Action** – **Lynda** to let Leni know when the R'port SB talks about the Draft Comp Plan so we have a voice in the discussions.

Route 1 North – Jenna said had a meeting workshop getting up to speed on the project. DOT will be here on the **15 August. @ 3:30**. Geoff continues to

advocate for 5' with diamond. Geoff concerned that he may seem a dissenter when advocating for 5' rather than 4'. **Action - Geoff** will continue to advocate for the 5' shoulder. Advisory group wants 4' shoulder. SB will be the mouthpiece for the advisory group. Present MDOT plans call for 5'. PW Comm unanimous yes continue to advocate

Rte 105 sidewalk extension to Shirttail Park

Jane – ball is in G&D court and nothing has happened. **Jenna** will talk to Audra for a status report. Have not the lost the money. Have signed an extension – for the MDOT funding. On July 27 she said G&D needed to finalize plans. **Anita** send Jenna and Jane copy of the work she did listing out steps involved in this process.

Easements – Anita sent an email to Audra, how the town should be working with willing landowners to set up easements on their properties. Not necessarily a Pathway – could be anything; like when the SB was considering purchasing a property to solve the John St traffic flow question. Set up a system for establishing as well as for potentially acquiring property. Today, Audra has an appt with town council to begin drafting up an easement template. She liked the idea of a permanent easement, rather than a Trail License. Perhaps we can establish an easement reserve fund. Anita discussed having written to Audra to get easements in place and position town to purchase property that becomes available. Also Town should position itself to purchase land of interest when it becomes available. Etienne spoke with a property owner abutting the river about an easement. Husband thought it was OK; wife not interested in having people walking in their back yard.

Riverwalk – Discussion about loiterers on Riverwalk platform. Would it be helpful if there was signage that would allow police to enforce the laws around the easement. It would also help if there wasn't so much undergrowth. Someone suggested bringing in goats to browse down the understory.

Jenna will talk to Janice about assistance to homeless man. Perhaps help is available.

Round the Mountain Trail – Leni reports that the project is going well. Rockport wants to connect to it.

Word for the evening – Owen introduces us to the word curtilage - an area of land attached to a house and forming one enclosure with it, or "the open space situated within a common enclosure belonging to a dwelling-house."

Adjourned 9 pm