

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

Present:

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

Absent:

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

July Minutes - The minutes were accepted as corrected.

New Members - Action – Geoff to speak with Bobby Morgan at Flatbread.
Action – Margo will speak with Annika Charland and her father about interest level.

Route 1 by Maritime Farms – Margo suggests that we get more pictures of people trying to get to bus station along Quarry Hill side, especially those walking in the road pulling bags.

Knowlton Section: Geoff had a meeting re Riverwalk with Jeremy and Audra. Town has changed their attitude towards moving forward with the Riverwalk until we make a plan with all possible issues we could face on land use on the entire length. Examples are setback in Village district, wetlands issues, lot coverage. This includes using existing grant money to extend the Riverwalk into the Wastewater Treatment plant. Geoff is still optimistic that zoning setback may change in the future for different districts. What about middle school? Middle school has maximized their non-permeable coverage for their land without triggering stormwater management plans, which are expensive. Geoff suggests we would seek an exception from DEP. Margo says if we coordinate with other path-building groups we could gain strength with that collaboration.

During the meeting with town, Geoff per our last meeting decisions, he advocated for building two spurs to the Knowlton section, one to the dam and one to Lions Lane. Doug Beck of MDOT says he would be OK with our using RTP grant funds for the spurs. The Town was also advocating for an observation deck at the Wastewater end of the Riverwalk. The Committee discussed and voted in support of the platform, but no benches, to minimize loitering. It was noted wheelchair bumpers would likely be required. Anita suggests a railing that could be leaned

on; expressed concern about using the weak fencing wire instead of balusters.
Action – Geoff to send memo with this info to Jeremy and Beth ASAP.

Route 90: Margo and Helen and Lynda met with chair and vice chair of Rockport Select Board. They spoke about the Pathways Memo regarding consideration of Pathways in Town business. They thought it was a good time to discuss with the new town manager coming on board. A good time to start a new relationship. Also spoke about about Route 90, Route 1 going south to hospital (sewer line), holding a regional Summit for municipalities and area orgs for interested people to create a common vision for bicycling and pedestrian ways; connecting destinations. Good discussion, well-received. Deb Hall (now Chair of Rockport SB) says she thinks it's not too late to incorporate a pathway on the sewer extension; there's nothing signed at this point. They had the conversation about the Route 90 crossing at high school; If in Comp Plan then they should be following the comp plan. Discussion about a path between Marge Jones and high school (rec fields); Rockport is putting solar there; we want a pathway between high school and Marge Jones fields incorporated into the design of the solar installation. Margo says that a pathway is already in the plans. No action item.

Route 1 North – no update.

Pending - Geoff still needs to talk to Audra about formalizing a process for how to incorporate or consider pedestrians/bicycles when new construction or projects are being done around town.

Easements – Geoff is drafting two versions, a long complicated version, and a simpler one. Also discussed that with the new interest in CMLT in construction pathways (Round the Mountain Trail), perhaps they could be a new partner in constructing the Riverwalk.

Camden Downtown Drainage Project - Geoff met with Ethan Yankura, Executive Director at Montessori school to ask if they would give up a little of their playground to facilitate a new pathway on other side of the Conway Boulder. Ethan was not willing to do this, they want to protect their playground. Geoff was asking if we could round off corners of the small imbedded park surrounding the boulder. Ethan said their preference is to keep it the way it is. However, where people walk is on the diagonal between the tree and boulder; Geoff sought PWComm support to pursue formalizing the new sidewalk to be constructed along the existing dirt track. Voted and unanimously approved, leaving what the surface material would be to MDOT.

Geoff was asked to put together a work group by the SB to make recommendations on streetscaping for this project. The Downtown Design Group (Richard Bernhardt/Donna Janville), Garden Club (Sherry Cobb/Priscilla Granston), and Pathways (Robert/Anita/Geoff) will make up the group. Audra suggested that Bart Wood (ex-tree warden) would likely have some good suggestions. Geoff asked if anyone knows Bart Wood. Margo will help us get in touch with Bart, he has a cottage at QH. Geoff says goal is to decide where to put the tree “boxes” or openings, along Route 1 on northbound side between Stop and

Go and the alley going down to the Public Landing. Species decision can come later but it would be helpful to get that decision soon enough to possibly incorporate in contract with DOT .

Sidewalk Survey – Geoff hasn't put together yet.

Rockport – Geoff asked for input on topics to present to Rockport SB in Sept. Maritime Farms project, sewer project; acknowledgement of letter in terms of staying true to comp plan. Generally agreed that with all the new SB members, they are very unfamiliar with what's going on re PWs plans. So reiterate current projects and make sure they understand the Route 90 plan. Pathway along 90 to schools, and onto playing fields. Elementary and high school kids should be able to cross over to Erickson Fields. Crossing needed at high school. Sidewalk Survey. Overall plan to connect five villages. Rockville sidewalks (in sidewalk survey). We have to set priorities, based on pressure of uses. Committee reminded the need for a sidewalk in Glen Cove area, Warrenton Road to Samoset; also Route 1 south to Rockland. Suggested to show a slide/map locating all these suggestions.

Adjourned 8:45 pm

Next meeting Sept 4, Camden