

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee
Minutes
Sept 2, 2020 – Zoom call
5:30 pm

Present:

Geoff Scott – Camden
Anita Brosius-Scott (minutes) – Camden
Richard Stetson – Camden
Lynda Clancy – Rockport
Margo Murphy – Rockport
Alison McKellar – Camden Select Board Liaison
Dave St. Laurent, Camden Public Works Director

Absent:

Heidi Baker, Rockport
Helen Shaw – Rockport
Andrew Stancioff – Camden
Robert Davis – Camden
Jeff Hamilton – Rockport Select Board Liaison
Jane Self – Camden, Alternate

Aug Minutes – Accepted as amended.

Committee Members – Owen Casas as resigned as a committee member due to over commitment. So we still need another Rockport member. Please keep this in mind and bring forward possible volunteers.

Meeting Time – discussed the option of starting meeting at 6. Limiting meeting to 90 minutes. Geoff will reach out to Heidi, see if earlier meeting time works for her.

Maritime Farms – going out to bid is tied to the Shirrtail sidewalk project. The bid is hung up because one of the abutters to the Shirrtail project has hired a lawyer to push back on giving the town a portion of her property for the sidewalk (the roadway is not in the center of the ROW). The issue has to do with the appraised value of the piece of the property in question. Select Board has agreed to move ahead with eminent domain. Will be on the town ballot in Nov.

Riverwalk, Knowlton Segment - there is bad erosion on a part of the trail; waiting for Lions Club to give the town a construction permit to go in and do the work. Dave St. Laurent would like to put in a culvert. It's a simpler solution than doing more serious earthwork and we can see how it holds up. It won't solve the problem of water coming down road from the Bus Barn area. Dave's ideas is channel the water down one side, then culvert under the riverwalk. Geoff will check back with Dave on progress in a couple of weeks. Lions Club meeting on 15th to present and discuss status of Riverwalk, Geoff and Dave invited.

Rivewalk, Wastewater Treatment Segment - Alison reported there was a meeting with designers, engineers, Dave Bolstridge, Geoff, Alison, Audra, Bob Falciani – a Select Board work session prior to the Planning Board review regarding the Wastewater refurb. The issue has been how to get this group to consider the Riverwalk during the planning/design cycle. Right now the Riverwalk deadends on the border with the property. Alison gets a lot of questions about why the Riverwalk can't continue? If it did continue, the vision is the Riverwalk would continue up alongside Megunticook River, plus a possibly adding a spur that would go up along the entrance to the Wastewater Plant area. The Plant has continued to express a lot of concern about changing the location of existing fencing and the location of a transformer (which was right in the way of a possible spur). After the last meeting, this planning group was tasked to give the Select Board a rundown re why certain approaches were not possible, and provide some options including costs. That did not happen. Final design is going in front of the planning board tomorrow. During the meeting we learned that the engineers had moved the transformer, not to accommodate the Riverwalk, but because of some other issue. Then we brainstormed relocating fencing and the mood of the group was completely different. Lots of good ideas flowing around. Bob wondered whether a fence is necessary, maybe just signs. Audra made some similar suggestions. No fence will stop someone from swimming in the sewer pools. Engineer from Wright Pierce understood town wants to be looking for options, focusing on getting it to a point of public walking in there. Question for group – should we make a statement at the planning board meeting so that they think of ped and bikes when they take things under consideration. Planning Board typically doesn't consider peds/bikes in their process. Thanks to Alison and Dave for continuing to advocate for bicycle and pedestrian access.

Route 90 – no progress yet. There was a question on whether there's been any progress creating a map that would show all the trail connections in the area, particularly along Route 90. Margo, thinks CMLT and GRLT could be working on. Or maybe the Island Institute?

Lynda – Rockport SB packet Sept 8, re awarding contract for re-building Rockville, sidewalk was attached to that; they may eliminate the sidewalk part to reduce cost, along Old Rockland St. Geoff reminded group that the local residents want to add a new sidewalk at the intersection of Old Rockland and Gurnry St. In 2019 Mike Young said repair of existing sidewalk would go into regular budget rather than the bond.

Mechanic St. – MDOT, Jim Tasse, Angela from BCM, Geoff etc. Walked Mechanic St. Discussing advisory lanes; problems arose re each change. Long story short, most reasonable way to make that road more accessible for bicyclists would be to paint sharrows with a fog line striped shoulder from Washington St. to John St. If advisory lane was painted, abutters would lose on street parking for that section of Mechanic Street. So probably would become an issue. Jim Tasse of BCM will put together an illustration of what we agreed to and will present at next Select Board meeting. Discussion ensued. Points raised:

- Anything Camden does is a teaching moment. It's opportunity to do some education and behavior modification.

- MDOT is concerned that education goes beyond local people because of all the summer visitors. They will not understand how advisory lanes work.
- Concern that abutters would be surprised they cannot park on Mechanic St if we add an advisory lane.
- Most of the public would not realize the loss of parking even if there's a public meeting. Perhaps create a flier to put in abutters' mailboxes.
- If we just put fog lines, travel lanes only need to be 9.5 feet, whatever is left over is where we'd put the fog line. No yellow line. And we'd still have on street parking.
- The plan intention is to say, Here is one design (advisory lanes) – pros and cons. Option 2 – here is another option sharrows and 4' fog lines on either side.
- NYC has discovered that motorists attitude changes when there are on-street designated bike lanes. They think that bikes can ONLY travel in those lanes. Creating an apparent separation makes people less tolerant of overlap, meaning bikes aren't ever allowed to be in a travel lane, even for making turns or going around parked cars.
- Bicyclists need to be educated (about how to ride on the road).
- Fog lines make the road feel more narrow. It's about the friction of slowing traffic down.
- Sharrows could be wherever there are no fog lines or could have both sharrows and fog lines.
- Jim Tassely suggested yellow line just before crest.
- Bicyclist could travel in sharrow lane or in the shoulder lane created by the fog line.
- There would be additional signage, like Share the Road.
- **Action – Dave will recommend a fog line @ 9.5 (or 10?) foot point, put sharrows in actual travel lane, betw. wheels, double yellow line in center at crest, also signs like Give 3', Share the Road etc.** Dave will put in budget, Alison says can use SelBd contingency.

Norwood Ave. Road is being rebuilt. Public works wants to paint an advisory lane. Neighbors in favor. The road is already used as if there were an advisory lane – people drive down the middle and move over for oncoming traffic or when bikes/ped present. If we can paint a true advisory lane on Norwood and partial or sharrows on Mechanic, good oppty to evaluate public reaction. Pathways fully in support.

Advisory Lane on Union St - Geoff will add as a future discussion item.

Pave Arounds – the placement of utility poles continues to be an issue. Poles recently replaced in even worse locations – more in the middle of sidewalks. Is this a legislative question? No one seems to be auditing the work of utilities. Audra says there is already legislation in the works. **Action – Lynda** will contact Dave Miramant and Vicki D to find out who has sponsored that legislation, we need to write a support letter. Audra used Anita's email and pix as part of her support letter to legislature.