

Minutes
Sept 8, 2021 – Zoom call/In Person Meeting - Blend
6:20 pm

Present:

Anita Brosius-Scott – Camden
Lynda Clancy – Rockport
Geoff Scott – Camden
Richard Stetson – Camden
Will Galloway – Camden
Margo Murphy – Rockport
Heidi Baker, Rockport
Alison McKellar, Camden Select Board Liaison

Absent:

Andrew Stancioff – Camden
Helen Shaw – Rockport
Jane Self – Camden, Alternate
Mark Kelly – Rockport Select Board Liaison

Note - meeting late starting because we were trying a new technology, Owl Meeting Pro for audio and video, zoom for the call, and remote participants projected to the large screen in the French Room. The consensus was that a blend of present and remote participants worked well. Audio and video was excellent.

August Minutes – Accepted as corrected.

Committee Membership – Will Galloway has submitted his application for membership on the committee for Camden. Robert Davis (Camden) understands that he's welcome to attend meetings, but is no longer officially a committee member.

Action – **Lynda, Heidi, Margo** will put their heads together to come up with options for a new Rockport candidate.

Rockport Public Meeting for Approval of Remote Participation - With the changes in state law, any committee who wishes to participate in any capacity in a remote setting (Zoom, etc) will be required to approve a Remote Participation policy for their committee not unlike the one approved by the Select Board. For the Pathways committee to adopt this policy, a Committee quorum must be present at a Joint Public Hearing held at the Opera House on Monday, September 27th at 6:30pm. Once the public hearing is closed, each group shall meet at that time and approve the adoption of the policy for their board or committee. PLEASE – PLEASE be in attendance at this meeting. **Action** – **Geoff** to send everyone background info that Diane Hamilton sent around about the meeting.

Maritime and Shirrtail Sidewalk extensions – Geoff reviewed the Maritime engineering drawings and encouraged everyone to do the same looking for anything that needs tweaking. He had some questions, specifically about increasing the width of the

shoulders around Maritime Farms for cyclists, which he asked Aurele Gorneau, MDOT engineer working on the project, via email. No reply yet.

Riverwalk – Geoff spoke with Keith Rose again about future trail work at the middle school. School is interested in building a stonedust path up at the top of the bank, with informal trails going down to the river. Keith thanked us for the reminder, he's been flat out working on other projects. Again, the goal is to do a DEP Site Review so that the CRMS property has greater flexibility for future construction of impervious surfaces (like for the Riverwalk). Right now, after construction of the MET project, Keith estimates the property will have about 3 sq ft of available surface area to build on. He will discuss the idea (and associated costs) with Maria Libby. Geoff reminded him that Oak Point engineering, the firm that designed CRMS, is familiar with Site Reviews at other schools they've built.

Alison says the Megunticook River study mentions the Riverwalk quite a few times, including a change to the high water mark when the Knowlton St. Dam is removed. Dam removal will lower the water level and potentially open up surface area which in turn could be new surface area that could be added into the calculation for percentage of impervious surface area. So potentially 1/3 of what is being exposed can be impervious. The idea is to tie R'walk into the plans. The Riverwalk is currently being included during the conceptual planning process.

Advocating for a site review is win-win; better plan for stormwater management, allows construction of future facilities at CRMS (including the Riverwalk). Need a really good plan because so much water is running into the river from the site. Alison has been doing storm drain surveying and feels the stormwater management system is already overtaxed without consideration for future flooding events caused by global warming. She understands the school is working on improving, but still an overall site review would be helpful. Alison shared that a site review is underway at the Snow Bowl for similar reasons (disturbed surface area).

For the Wastewater Treatment section, the town is looking at ultimately taking down outer fence and only fencing unsafe areas. There used to be a community tree nursery on that property. Will asked if there is a bigger plan for this section (and the entire length of the Riverwalk) which incorporates gardens, playground etc. The current plan is to focus on construction of the various sections within the easement language which CMLT helped us develop. **Action – Geoff** to forward to Will a copy of the easement.

Camden Public Works worked some more on the culvert related issue on the Riverwalk section in front of the Lions Club area. Looks like it's finally resolved. Many thanks.

Town Process - Lynda reminded the group that we need to keep up with what projects are being done in the towns so pathways can be brought into new project planning. We need to keep up with projects being considered by other committees and the towns and advocate for consideration of bicycles and pedestrian safety. Alternatively, we need more formal connections. Related, does anyone know if whether there are any plans in progress for the old RES site? **Action – Heidi** will see what she can find out.

Rockport Meeting – Heidi, Margo, and Lynda met with Jon Duke at Aldermere Farm. Jon really wants to know what the committee goals are. Wants to integrate us into future plans. **Action** – **Heidi** will send Jon our master plan. One change Jon is considering is, in addition to a select board liaison, having a staff liaison. No one yet assigned to Pathways.

They then discussed specific bike/ped items in the budget. Jon mentioned that funding for the Main Street sidewalk extension to the town office is in the budget. For a matching grant application for Rte 90 planning, Jon thinks there's \$10K. Is that enough money to get started, or do we need to come up with more? With federal infrastructure money, some money is earmarked for trails and paths. This is the time to tap into those resources. **Action** – **Lynda** will get in touch with Patrick Adams to let him know we're applying for money for a future grant application.

Getting Pathways strategies/goals on paper is important. Jon understands and hopes to wrap Pathways in sooner on town projects. He understands that's a priority. He feels communication is good and that the Sidewalk Survey is helpful.

As we think about sharrows and other facilities, drivers need to know roads are also for bikes. Some places where sidewalks exist, can we think about taking them out and incorporating shared use into the road surface? For example, on Mechanic St, the sidewalk on east side is very narrow to non-existent. Do we still need that sidewalk?

(Committee brainstorm: Perhaps some streets could be converted to one way so that there could be a lane for bikes and one for cars? Suggestion to add a section to the Sidewalk Survey for "Creative Alternatives".)

Jon seems to understand the big picture, understands the value ped/bike ways provide economically. He has some bold ideas for raised sidewalks. Moving forward, we should also meet with Orion Thomas and Dan ?? to see their visions on economic growth. Jon was adamant that we need to get ahead in the grant application process. We missed the boat on the Rte 1 sewer extension, we can't let that happen again on Rte 90.

Should the Committee re-send memo to Jon Duke that bike and pedestrian facilities be more formally integrated into infrastructure planning? Perhaps a memo to both town managers and select boards? Recommended no, not at this time.

The extension of the new sidewalk up Gurney St in Rockville did not come up in the conversation. **Action** – **Geoff** to get in touch with Jon and discuss.

Mechanic Street Sharrows – to add better public understanding the town as agreed that the "Burma Shave signs" explaining Sharrows is a good idea. Anita's design/wording seems fine with the addition of a Pathways Committee attribution. **Action** – **Anita** will go place order with Adventure Advertising – about a \$200 cost – after sending final version to Alison. Town will pay invoice or reimburse.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm
Next meeting Oct 6 via Zoom