

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee
Minutes
Oct 7, 2020 – Zoom call
6:00 pm

Present:

Geoff Scott – Camden
Anita Brosius-Scott (minutes) – Camden
Richard Stetson – Camden
Andrew Stancioff – Camden
Lynda Clancy – Rockport
Heidi Baker, Rockport
Jane Self – Camden, Alternate
Helen Shaw – Rockport
Alison McKellar, Camden Select Board Liaison
Dave St. Laurent, Camden Public Works Director
Jeremy Martin, Planning and Development Director

Absent:

Margo Murphy – Rockport
Robert Davis – Camden
Jeff Hamilton – Rockport Select Board Liaison

Sept Minutes – Accepted as written.

Committee Members – We need another Rockport member. Please keep this in mind and bring forward possible volunteers.

Route 105, Shirrtail Sidewalk Extension – Jeremy Martin framed out the discussion regarding the Town's decision to move forward with eminent domain for one property. The sidewalk extension project from Matthew John St to Shirrtail Park has been many years in the making. Though it's an MDOT project, it's a Locally Administered Project (LAP), which means the town manages it. The Town works with an engineer. All MDOT rights-of-way are local, but they are state controlled. So for this LAP, the town handles working with all abutters regarding construction in the ROW. Of all the abutters, there were four properties for which the drainage and sidewalk construction would extend outside the ROW. There is an MDOT manual that mandates the process in these situations. The process includes hiring an outside engineer and appraiser who figures out what the value of the private property is that would be affected. There is also a peer review, another professional appraiser who reviews the appraisal that was done and confirms the appraisal is correct. Three property owners agreed to what the town proposed. One did not. Part of the negotiations with the reluctant property owner was to give the owner legal access to the back of the property from the Town owned Shirrtail access road. The property owner didn't like this offer. One of her issues is if the sidewalk takes room from the front of her property, there won't be enough room left for the renter cars to park. The Town came up with another proposal to extend her driveway further towards her house, relocate a fence, and create more parking space. Early on she seemed to like this

idea. Then the issue became the appraisal because it didn't agree with the assessed value of the property. The appraiser upped the value of the property the town needed in order to build the sidewalk by \$500. That also was refused. In cases like this, unlike MDOT who can take a property owner to court and take the property, the Town must get to a town meeting vote. The process the town votes on is eminent domain. As part of the process of moving forward with eminent domain, there was a public hearing.

After Jeremy left, the committee discussed the issue. The Committee voted unanimously for Geoff to tweak a draft letter to the editor that Anita had written and submit it to the papers asap since people are mailing in their ballots now.

Striping Pavement – David St. Laurent explained the opportunities for bicycle/vehicle striping in the upcoming weeks and next spring. In the spring, he's planning to stripe/paint Norwood with Advisory Lanes. Also in the spring, stripe/paint Mechanic St with fog lines and sharrows. Dave feels pressure to get the streets painted, but doesn't want to waste the paint! After it wears off in winter, he'd have to do again/twice in the same budget period. Dave will get the costs for painting. He'd like to get education/PR out first on Advisory Lanes and sharrows. Suggestion was made to put up cautionary road signs. Dave will try to get done before winter.

Unanimous Committee vote – if the budget permits, paint Norwood with Advisory Lanes in the Fall. Paint fog lines/sharrows on Mechanic St in the spring.

Committee agrees it's worth starting the education process now/sooner as well as get PR out on what the Committee has been up to/is planning.

Aldermere Farms - Heidi Baker mentioned Aldermere's plans to redo their fences along Russell Ave. Heidi thought that MCHT might be open to the idea of moving the fence line back, away from the road a bit to make room for a pathway. She's going to look into easements on the property and whether they would preclude a pathway. I seem to remember there was something about that when I spoke years ago with Ron Howard. But I'll let you know.

Such a path would be an ideal candidate for an RTP grant, which Pathways would be happy to help with on behalf of the Town.

Rockville Sidewalk – Geoff spoke with Mike Young, Rockport Public Works Director, regarding sidewalk work being done in Rockville. Mike said they were planning to move ahead using some of the sidewalk bond money to repair existing sidewalks. Geoff asked the group if anyone remembered the Rockville community input regarding sidewalk their preference to instead add a sidewalk at the corner of Gurney and Old Rockland. No one could remember. Geoff will follow up.

Adjourned 7:30