

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee
Minutes
Nov 6, 2019 – Rockport Town Office
7:00 pm

Present:

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

Absent:

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

Oct Minutes - The minutes were accepted as amended.

New Members - Geoff met with Bobby Morgan of Flatbread. Enthusiastic guy, great energy. Very supportive of our work and offered to host a fund raiser at the restaurant. He's primarily interested in a trail from his Flatbread parking lot up to Erickson Farm trail/ Beech Hill. Geoff shared with him that the Pathways Committee (PWC) focuses on connecting destinations, primarily in town, not recreational trails. Though we would not lead this effort, PWC would be supportive. Margo shared that Annika Charland is interested in joining, though she's very busy. Including being unable to attend tonight. Geoff spoke with Trevor Mills who is too busy. Perhaps in the spring. Geoff also spoke with Scott Layton. He too has not time to offer.

Maritime – no update

Riverwalk – Knowlton section

Upper spur is not possible because, according to Dave Bolstridge, Dir of WW Plant, engineers designing the upgrade have to place a large transformer and a utility pole right where the upper spur would go. Dave reminded us that the original alignment, along the river, should be doable, just not this new additional spur. Geoff then let Beth Ward know that she should ask Dan Ford to start working on the lower spur since the PWC doesn't have that authority. Over a week went by while Beth tried to set up a meeting to discuss with Jeremy Martin and Audra. Beth sent an email today saying that " We all feel we should just submit what we have done as of today and call it quits. Jodi is going to send in the grant reimbursement to the state this week. "

Dan Ford finally admitted that he did not put stone dust down; only put 1" minus. Dan says let's just put a thin layer of stone dust on top. Dan admitted his crew hadn't done anything since August.

After various ideas on how to move forward, it was agreed that Geoff should have a coffee with Bob Falciani ASAP to layout the issue of moving forward on the lower spur. And, if Alison has the time (as our Liaison), speak with her as well, otherwise speak with Taylor Benzie.

Summit 2020 – Lynda reported that she and Margo had discussed the approach to Summit 2020. They came up with a list of invitees: Coastal Mountains Land Trust, MCNEMBA, PWC, Georges River Land Trust, both Public Works Directors, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, both town planners. Bobby Morgan has offered the upstairs at Flatbread as a venue, maybe a Thursday evening, 5-7 pm. Be clear on expectations ahead of time. First hour, each group does a 5-10 minute presentation about what trails/connectors they're working on. Second hour, discussion on strategies and where collaboration and coordinated funding is/could be. Next step is to send out the invitation Lynda already wrote up and then settle on a date in January. Lynda and Margo will create a map they can refer to.

Bike Awareness Groups checked in on progress for a Camden map showing all existing bike ways and future bike ways to give to Dave St Laurent. Anita said that she and Andrew had not made any progress on this. Geoff asked that they create a map of all paths, wish lists, and present at next PWC meeting. Include commercial bike touring organizational routes used by orgs like Backroads and Vermont Cycling.

Beloins – Anita presented that a group including Rozanna Patane from York is interested in developing a co-housing community of 25-30 units on the old Beloin property. Anita discussed with Ms. Patane the potential to build a publicly accessible trail along the shore as part of the development. Geoff reminded the PWC that we can advocate for these types of trails but need to focus on building connections primarily in town. We have a lot on our plate; can't lead projects like this or the trail Bobby proposed behind Flatbread.

Elm St. – this is the northbound side, from about Park Street to Union Street. Audra feels the next step is to participate in an MDOT safety audit. After the audit is completed, the town should qualify for state/federal funds for projects like this. The idea of the safety audit is to merge safety thinking into state planning. The audit would provide a coordinated look which would lend itself to well-thought-out improvement plans.

Rawson Ave Bridge - MDOT had an informational meeting about the status. The meeting was well attended, maybe 40-50 people including the Camden Town Manager and Development Director. The meeting was led by an MDOT Regional planner, Stephen Cole Stephen.Cole@maine.gov. Mr. Cole recorded all the public comment and will take it back to MDOT; he wasn't in a position to answer many questions. Camden is considering building a pedestrian crossing in a different

location than the current bridge, but near. Richard's impression was that it would take a very long time if we wait for MDOT to provide a ped/bike crossing. MDOT will go 50:50 on funding for removing the bridge and putting in a pedestrian bridge. Alternatively, MDOT is willing to pay for the bridge demolition, and Camden can pay for construction a pedestrian bridge on their own. The general sentiment of the community from the meeting was, despite MDOT having closed the "unsafe" bridge to all traffic (ped or otherwise), the community wants to continue using the closed bridge as a ped/bike crossing until a new ped bridge is constructed.

