

# **Camden Rockport Pathways Committee**

## **Joint Meeting**

**John French Room, Camden**

April 17, 2025

### **Attending:**

Jane Self, Lynda Clancy, Tom Zumwalt, Ken von Felten, Richard Stetson, Geoffrey Scott, Margo Murphy, Gary Fowlie

Michael Thompson (Rockport Select Board)

### **Quick recap**

The team discussed crosswalk safety and painting in Camden. They also discussed strategies for promoting their work and engaging the community, with a focus on improving infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists in the community. The team also discussed the progress of their Complete Streets policy, the potential for pursuing grants for smaller trail sections, and the implementation of impact fees for new developments in Maine.

### **Next steps**

- Geoff to send around the list of PR ideas to committee members. Please add ideas and let everyone know which idea you want to own and or submit a letter/article about.
- Geoff to schedule a walk of the power line route to the high school when conditions are dry enough.
- Lynda to keep watch on Snowbowl revisioning meetings and circulate information to the committee when relevant.
- Geoff to update the Camden Complete Streets policy document in the Google Drive with the latest version which is based on Rockland's policy. Everyone to add comments.
- Geoff to circulate the updated Camden Complete Streets policy to the committee for review before it goes to the Select Board.
- Committee to add US Bike Route 1 / East Coast Greenway signage and marking to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

## **Minutes and New Member**

A new Rockport member, Ken von Felton, was introduced to the group. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted.

## **Crosswalk Safety and Repainting Priorities**

The committee discussed the importance of crosswalk safety and painting in Camden. A spring inventory of crosswalk conditions is almost done and will prioritize key locations for a second repainting each fall, focusing on areas with heavy pedestrian traffic. The group agrees to recommend to Camden and Rockport Public Works that some crosswalks be repainted in the fall to reinforce them before winter, noting that this is a cost-effective safety measure compared to larger infrastructure projects.

## **Promoting Bike/Ped Past and Future Work**

Discussed strategies for promoting their work and achievements. Options include writing articles for local publications like the Villager and Pen Bay Pilot, and posting links to those articles on the Facebook page. Another option hosting an event. Also discussed the idea of focusing on accomplishments rather than future plans. The team agreed to share the load of writing articles among committee members, with maybe short updates rather than lengthy articles. Reach out to local organizations like the Lion's Club and Rotary to look for opportunities to collaborate and to share accomplishments as well as future plans. Create walking or biking challenges in partnership with organizations like the YMCA or Maine Sports to showcase sidewalks/bikeways and trails. The group agrees on the importance of choosing projects that resonate with individual members. Will compile a list of potential initiatives for both Camden and Rockport and pass around for people to sign up to 'own'.

## **Route 90 Pathway Project Update**

The committee discusses the VPI proposal which includes recommendations for a Route 90 pathway. Originally there were going to be separate individual projects but MDOT likes the developed plan they'd like to request to get the entire plan funded under one grant. They are moving it forward through legislature. Goose River Bridge replacement should continue regardless; the bridge replacement is tentatively scheduled for 2026. There is some uncertainty about future funding, particularly in light of potential federal transportation budget cuts.

## **Other CHRHS connectors**

Connector to Camden High School connector along the power line route. Concerns about the feasibility of a trail through wetlands and steep terrain. Proposed an informal single

track trail under the power lines. If successful, can expand. First step to walk the alignment.

### **Complete Streets Policy Progress Discussed**

Discussed the progress of Complete Streets policy in both towns. A draft has been prepared for the select board in each. Also discussed the implementation of the policy, with the next steps being to get the select board's approval and then work on the related ordinances. Important to get public works' buy-in for the policy's implementation. Camden's policy was redrafted, using the existing Rockland policy as the template. This was suggested by Camden Public Works – so more consistent policies across towns. Agreed that though Public Works is okay with the policy, committee needs to give their input, not just rubber-stamping. Lynda emphasized the importance of reflecting each community's unique character in their policies.

### **Jacob's Quarry Connector**

Proposed cleaning up the Lily Pond Transfer station trail, which could be a new informal trail connecting Greenfields and the YMCA via the backside of the landfill. The group agreed to approach property owners to establish a trail easement, with the goal of eventually connecting the trail to Lime Rock in Rockport. Recognize the challenges of navigating the old railway bed in Rockport, which is now considered private property.

### **Impact Fees for Maine Developments**

The team discussed the implementation of impact fees for new developments in Maine, which would help fund infrastructure improvements and support projects for pedestrians and bicyclists.

### **US Bicycle Route System**

Some of the signage for US Bicycle Route 1 (USBR1) and the East Coast Greenway (ECG) are poorly or not marked. Routes run through Camden and Rockport. Will discuss more detail next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 17th in Rockport.