

Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee DRAFT Minutes
Virtual Committee Meeting Via Zoom

find the zoom link here:

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/bikeped>

January 4, 2023

7:00pm

In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency, this public meeting of the Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation.

Alternative public access to this meeting shall be provided in the following manner:

1. The meeting will be held via Zoom video conference. The public can view, hear, and participate in the meeting in real time by joining the Zoom video conference.
2. Real-time public comment will be permitted utilizing the Zoom virtual meeting software. This application will allow users to view the meeting and send a comment or question to the Chair via the Chat function. Submitted text comments may be read into the record at the appropriate points in the meeting as determined by the Chair, or the Chair may ask for oral public comment and discussion.
 - a. Zoom Login instructions:
 - i. Instructions and the meeting link for this specific meeting can be found at the following web address:
<https://www.falmouthmass.us/bikeped>
 - ii. Please plan on 10-15 minutes of preparation time to log in though it may be less if you have previously used Zoom on the device you will use to access this meeting.
3. Additionally, public comments may be sent in advance of the meeting to Scott Lindell (scott.lindell@falmouthma.gov) at least 5 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. Documents and audio or video files may also be submitted via email in advance of the meeting. Submitted email comments and documents will be made a part of the meeting record and may be read into the record, summarized or displayed during the meeting at the discretion of the chair.

Present: Peter Mili, Tim Shea, Pamela Rothstein, Katherine Jansen, JoAnn Fishbein, Nathaniel Clark, Neel Aluru

Absent: Scott Lindell

Also present: Paul Sylvia, Helen Manglesdorf, Paul Joyce, Harley Smith, Paula Smith, Rachel McCaffery

Chairperson's opening remarks on conditions for remote meeting & participation

At 7:00 KJ called the meeting to order and read regulations for remote meetings.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes from previous meeting

Tim moved to approve the minutes of 12/7/23. Neel seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Neel Aluru -aye

Tim Shea-aye

Katherine Jansen-aye

JoAnn Fishbein-abstained

Chris McGuire-abstained

Peter Mili-aye

Nathaniel Clark-aye

Pamela Rothstein-aye

Reports:

-Friends of Falmouth Bikeways

Paul Sylvia reported that the Friends are willing to provide financial assistance for the root bump initiative. The three attendees of the root bump conference will confer and report back about how to proceed.

-Traffic Advisory Committee

No meeting of the TAC since the last BPC meeting.

Discussion Items:

New Business

-Discussion with Eversource about communication plan for Shining Sea Bikeway construction and detours:

KJ reported that ES requested that the meeting be postponed until February since the permitting and other processes were slowed by the holidays.

-Discussion with West Falmouth Village Association about their bicycle/pedestrian safety priorities:

Helen Manglesdorf appeared to represent concerns of the West Falmouth Village Association and the discussion included the following:

- It was clarified that 28A, which runs through the village is a state road. Any changes must be done by petitioning the town to petition the state.
- Helen Manglesdorf expressed concerns about safety and presented a West Falmouth Village Association Top Priorities List for consideration. Issues include a diminished sidewalk, increased traffic, overgrown vegetation, problematic intersections, historic district status.

- Have state representatives and the Select Board been contacted?
- Only Dylan Fernandes has responded to outreach.
- Some of the items on the list, such as vegetation management, are an easy fix, but others, such as reconfiguration of intersections, are more complex.
- The town of Barnstable, especially the village of Marstons Mills has done a great job of reconfiguring roadways with accommodations for pedestrians and cyclists. Committee members recommended Helen reach out to community members there to see how they were able to accomplish this
- Falmouth has been reluctant to consider speed tables which are used in Marstons Mills. The groups agreed to work together on the safety issues in West Falmouth. Helen Manglesdorf will inform the committee about people and groups she has already reached out to.
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Katherine brought the **Act To Reduce Traffic Fatalities** to the attention of the committee. This act was passed by Gov Baker before leaving office. This act gives the town the right to reduce the speed on state roads that run through towns. The act also initiates a 4 ft passing law around cyclists and a mandate for rear bike lights at night.

- Pamela agreed to reach out to news media in order to bring attention to the new law.
 - Chris recommended a public meeting, bringing local village associations together, to discuss this and create a groundswell of support for making the state roads that run through Falmouth safer.
 - The committee agreed and committee members were assigned to reach out to each village association for a meeting in April.
 - The committee also agreed to reach out to Rep. Dylan Fernandes to ask if, as a co-sponsor of the bill, he would speak at the meeting.
 - KJ offered to discuss this Act with Police Chief Dunne. One suggestion was for the police department to offer rear lights to any cyclists out after dark without proper rear lights. Another is to use flashing signs to alert drivers of 4 foot passing rule.
 - Other suggestions included Lawn Signs regarding 4 Foot Passing along routes where cyclists often ride on streets.
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- Concern was expressed about the proposed affordable housing development on Sandwich Road. There are few accommodations for pedestrians, cyclists and bus riders on Sandwich Road.

-Update on DPW actions since last meeting:

- Harley Smith appeared to report on his Eagle Scout QR code project. The posts were installed in December. Traffic data for December 9-28th was provided. Harley will next have flyers printed and distributed. Suggestions were made to post in the bike stores and the Chamber.
- Tim said that he hopes to get a DPW update next week. After pushing the button at Goodwill crossing, he found the signal working.

-Speed tracking sign for Shining Sea Bikeway – purchase vs build.

<https://www.instructables.com/Low-Cost-Radar-Speed-Sign/>:

JoAnn reported that solar powered speed trackers cost about \$2,000 each. There are DIY options, however. Neel has procured some parts and a friend is assembling. The committee agreed to put this one in use and evaluate its performance. Nat said that the FFBW would be willing to cover the cost of these speed trackers.

-Eco-counter by SSA lot- will this be disrupted by Eversource when they do their work and who will be responsible for making sure it is in working order when it is put back:

JoAnn raised the concern. Tim thought that DPW could/would be responsible, KJ suggested also reaching out to Eversource & making the request to either avoid or repair the Eco-counter pneumatic tubes.

-Follow up to discussion about in person vs Zoom meetings:

Nat sought input from those absent from the last meeting and the discussion. It appeared that people were open to in person meetings but some preferred Zoom. The hybrid option is not available through the town; the technology is not adequate to handle. The Hermann Room at the library where they have some hybrid capabilities may be available. Peter recalled that the committee had discussed alternating in person and Zoom meetings. The issue will be revisited in a couple of months.

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At 8:30 Nat moved to adjourn. Tim seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Neel Aluru -aye

Tim Shea-aye

Katherine Jansen-aye

JoAnn Fishbein-aye

Chris McGuire-aye

Peter Mili-aye

Nathaniel Clark-aye

Pamela Rothstein-aye

Relevant Documents

West Falmouth Village Association Top Priorities List, West Falmouth Village Association Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues in West Falmouth, Harley Smith's traffic data