

Agenda, January 7, 2026, 7:00pm
Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Recreation Center

- The meeting was called to order by Katherine Jansen (KJ) at 7:05 p.m.
 - Present: KJ, Pamela Rothstein, Neel Aluru, Frieder Klein, Paul Joyce, Ellen Adams
 - Absent: Matt Delaney, Mitch Flaherty, Tim Shea
 - Member of the public: Michael Pavan
- Minutes from the December 3, 2025 meeting of the Committee were approved
 - Motion to approve: Ellen Adams
 - Seconded: Frieder Klein
 - Yea: KJ, Pamela Rothstein, Neel Aluru, Frieder Klein, Paul Joyce, Ellen Adams
 - Nay: none
- There were no questions or comments about pre-read materials
- Public Comment : Emails from the public included in pre-read. *Please limit comments to three minutes per individual to items not on this meeting agenda. The Committee cannot debate or take action on public comment items. The Committee will take items under advisement or the individual may request an item to be placed on a future agenda.*
 - Michael Pavan commented on two items: 1. The meeting of the committee was not listed on the town calendar. One had to go to the Bike/Ped page and download the agenda in order to see the date 2. Mr. Pavan referred to the bike path signs for various planets and noted that the sign for Earth is missing.

New business

- Update on MassTrails grant application for Shining Sea Bikeway (SSBW)
 - KJ noted that DPW had approved the Committee applying for the grant. If granted, the funds would be used to identify and remove invasive species that cause root bumps and then repave the entirety of the SSBW except a few small sections that have been recently paved or that lack root bumps.
 - The grant would be for \$400,00 with a required \$100,000 match from either “in kind” work such as the Park Superintendant identification of invasive trees, or from the existing budget of \$100,000 for the SSBW
 - The next step is to get on the Selectboard agenda in order to gain approval for the application
 - Neel Aluru asked if the grant was a reimbursement grant and noted that those types of grants are not necessarily popular with our town. KJ noted that one of the good things about this grant is that the decision would be made in August 2026 so that the Town could avoid crossing multiple fiscal years, a common issue with reimbursement grants.
 - The due date of the grant is February 2, 2026.
 - Frieder Klein initiated a discussion about the Katharine Lee Bates (KLB) connector to the SSBW. He noted some questions about stop signs, snow removal and the fence and shrubs. Ellen Adams and Neel Aluru clarified that DPW handles snow and shrubs and that does not need to be part of the grant.

- Frieder Klein also asked if repaving the KLB connector might be possible and KJ said that she would check it out.
- Prioritization and leadership for Shining Sea Bikeway 50th anniversary ideas –
 - In December's meeting the Committee and separately, the Friends of Falmouth Bikeways (FFB) brainstormed many ideas for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the SSBW in 2026
 - KJ described the process of a prioritization exercise, followed by defining how many months or number of events, followed by a leader volunteering for each project and defining the "what" and "how", engaging a team including residents, and reporting back by the February meeting
 - The Committee decided on 6 events at minimum, starting end of April with the FFB's celebration event and going through year end.
 - Frieder Klein noted that we should focus on sustainable and practical items for any give aways e.g. bells for cyclists, flashlights for pedestrians.
 - The ideas prioritized were:
 - Celebration end of April with public speaker, run by Friends of Falmouth Bikeways
 - Scavenger hunts on or adjacent to the SSBW, one for children, one for adults
 - A 50 mile challenge for the 50th anniversary with a commemorative prize
 - Can be completed during 2026
 - Potentially add prizes for kids that complete walking or riding sections of the SSBW
 - Starting in May, scheduled monthly walks and rides for both adults and kids that are accessible. Have members of the Selectboard, Town Administration and DPW be honorary leaders of walks or rides
- "E-moto" discussion for Shining Sea Bikeway including potential actions – this agenda item was postponed until the February meeting.
- Updates on Bikeway Safety Issues/Planned Actions from Sandwich, CCC and possibly other South Shore Bikeway Committees – this item was postponed until the February meeting
- Request for a memorial bench on the Shining Sea Bikeway across from Wood Lumber
 - KJ referenced a letter in the pre-read from Scott G. KJ noted that she had received 5 requests since becoming Chair, and understood that the Town policy was no new benches (on the SSBW) due to how many benches already exist. She noted she was concerned about fairness with the recent request.
 - Michael Pavan suggested either renaming or co-ename benches.
 - Neel Aluru noted that there are many benches that do not have memorial plaques and that also need maintenance. He suggested offering the naming of existing benches if the person who requested would repair the bench and potentially contribute to a maintenance fund.
 - Pamela Rothstein reminded the Committee that benches are essential for people to rest and enjoy the view, not just an annoyance.
 - KJ said she would talk to the Parks Superintendent about the repair/naming idea and if approved, would then offer it to Scott. G.

Old Business

- DPW update
 - Ellen Adams does not yet have an update due to the holidays
- The Committee discussed timing of public meeting with new SSA GM and meeting preparation

- KJ noted that the new GM seems open to input and that a better path might be sending the survey about bike/ped safety out, collecting the responses and then scheduling a meeting with the new GM.
- Frieder Klein noted that if the meeting should be unproductive, we could always call a public meeting
- The Committee agreed that we should take this approach and first ask Bob Mascali, who requested the meeting, if he agrees with the approach
- Frieder Klein gave an update on the Main Street project and noted that he and Mitch had reached out to the Town Planner, Falmouth Chamber of Commerce and Falmouth Village Association. All are excited, and they are trying to schedule meeting later this month.
 - The goal is to make Main St more accessible without cars, and to start by experimenting with adding a couple of car-free days to the calendar.
 - KJ asked how would they operationalize mixing bikes and people walking.
 - Frieder Klein noted that the goals are to get the discussion started.
 - He added that they felt it should be pedestrian only at first
 - KJ asked that Frieder and Mitch Flaherty try, if possible, to incorporate the 50th anniversary theme.

Other Committee Business for next Meeting & Adjournment: 8:30

Motion to adjourn: Ellen Adams

Seconded: Neel Aluru

Yea: KJ, Pamela Rothstein, Neel Aluru, Frieder Klein, Paul Joyce, Ellen Adams

Nays: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.