

FALMOUTH TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES February 24, 2022

Present: Ed DeWitt, Alison Leschen, Ralph Herbst, Chris McGuire, Paul Dreyer, Rhona Carlton-Foss (joined 7:42 PM).

1. Mr. DeWitt read the remote meeting procedures and took the roll at 7:01 PM.
2. Wayfinding discussion. There has still been no response from Mr. Suso. Alison expressed her extreme frustration that this non-action has been allowed to continue for 8 months. Ed expressed concern that the delay will lose us the support of the business community, which was enthusiastic and ready for immediate action.
3. Davis Straits: Discussion of concern about the Planning Board letter to the Select Board recommending on-street parking along Davis Straits. Paul said it's premature to discuss it. But the letter was sent and signed by the Planning Board indicating their support, so others do not feel it is premature. Tabled for now.
4. Complete Streets: Chris described a "network approach" to selecting and prioritizing projects from the Priority Plan, where the idea would be to create complete routes from one destination to another, rather than piecemeal, unconnected projects. The Town is applying for a Shared Streets and Spaces grant from MassDOT for Curley Blvd. The Committee voted to send a letter of support for the application to the Select Board who will be discussing it at their next meeting on Monday. Because of the time urgency, Ed will draft a letter and the committee members will review and individually ok it by email by COB tomorrow. If majority supports, he will send it.
5. Embarkation Fee Fund: Ed reviewed his discussion with the Finance Committee Chair. He said that a Warrant Article is preferable to a Budget line item, because the expenditure can be spread over a three-year period, vs. one year with a Budget line item. Chris asked what the procedure is for a Warrant Article. Ed responded that the SB recommends it, but it can come up from a Department, or via a Petition Article. Maybe the SMART group could do an Article for the sound study of Woods Hole Rd.
6. Grant writing/management: Ralph did a review of current practices, and spoke to the head of the Finance Dept, as well as to Barnstable. In Barnstable, Department Heads apply for grants. Falmouth has a similar system, where Department heads apply for and manage the grants. The town has Community Compact Grant that shows what grants are available. Recently it has gotten grants for an alerting system, trash/recycling totes and an education program about solid waste. Ralph sees a system in place where grants are applied for and managed. He doesn't understand why Mr. Suso says there isn't the capacity, as it seems to be happening. Conclusion: We should not hesitate to bring grant opportunities to the attention of department heads.
7. Policy for postponing meetings if chair or vice-chair can't make it (Ralph): No action taken.
8. Upcoming committee vacancies: Both Ed's and Alison's (Chair and Vice-Chair) terms expire in June. Ed is 80% sure he won't renew, and so is Alison. Alison expressed her frustration at slow/inaction on part of Select Board/Town Manager. Attempts at recruiting new members have so far been unsuccessful.
9. Updates and future agenda items:
 - a. Bridges: Nothing new

- b. Rt 28 (section 3): Over two years ago, town asked Alison if she would be willing to reconvene the Rt 28 advisory Committee that she chaired. She said yes and reached out to former members, who were also willing to serve again. Apparently the town decided to postpone work on that section while they pursued section 2 (Davis Straits). But no one ever informed Alison. Another example of poor communication/lack of respect for committees.
- c. Stormwater: Ed. Town needs to have a Hearing Officer if someone is aggrieved by a DPW decision re stormwater. That is the Conservation Administrator. Ed: Stormwater is not being considered as an integral part of all projects, as it should be.
- d. Steamship Authority RFP for off-Cape port. They held a public zoom last week to discuss. Committee decided not to discuss the 68 page document RFP. :
- e. Government order allowing remote meetings expires April 1. Ed will look into available rooms. Alison at least is still hesitant to meet in unventilated, small basement room in Town Hall. We will likely change meeting day to 1st and 3rd Tuesdays to avoid conflicts for Rhona on Thursdays.

Minutes of 2/10/22 were approved unanimously, with exception of Alison, who abstained because she wasn't present at that meeting.

Next meeting March 10.

Adjourned 8:39 PM. Voted unanimous.

Recorder: Alison Leschen