

Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Virtual Committee Meeting Via Zoom

find the zoom link here:

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

April 4, 2023, 7:00pm

1. Real-time public comment will be permitted utilizing the Zoom virtual meeting software.

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.

2. 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 (logged on at 7:15), Pamela Rothstein, Katherine Jansen, Nathaniel Clark, Neel Aluru, Chris McGuire, JoAnn Fishbein, Scott Lindell

Also present: Patty Johnson, Officer Joshua Oliver, Rachel McCaffery, SRTS

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

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

Public Comment

Officer Joshua Oliver was introduced as the new liaison with the police. He noted that a three day training is required to become a bike officer. There are presently 4 or 5 officers that are trained. His email is the best way to reach him: Joshua.Oliver@Falmouthpolicema.gov

Scott said that the committee was concerned with accidents and hoped Officer Oliver could help with understanding them and provide direction about how best to respond via safety improvements or education.

Minutes from previous meeting

Nat moved to approve the minutes of 3/1/23. KJ seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Neel Aluru -aye

JoAnn Fishbein-abstained
Katherine Jansen-aye
Chris McGuire-aye
Peter Mili-aye
Nathaniel Clark-aye
Pamela Rothstein-aye
Scott Lindell-abstained

Reports:

-Friends of Falmouth Bikeways

Nat reported that the annual meeting of the Friends will be held on April 24th at 5:00.

-Traffic Advisory Committee

No report this month. Tim Shea to cover for KJ in May & June.

New business

Update on DPW actions since last meeting

Scott reported on paving done on the bikeway. He had noted prior to the work that a large section of path was marked to be overlaid along Sippewissett Marsh north to about Quahog Lane, but the pavement is fine with no root bumps there. A 0.6 mile section had also been marked for grinding and repaving south of the Marsh to the campground of which only 0.2 miles had evidence of severe root bumps. Scott contacted DPW before work began with a request to modify re-paving plans and to include previously identified priority areas, such as between Chappaquoit and Chase Rd, for example. The paving contractor pulled back from the overlay work but still spent all the annually budgeted funds on 2 layers of asphalt over the 0.6 miles of the bikeway. This issue illustrated larger issues of how to take care of the root bumps and how to better communicate with DPW about the appropriateness of work to be done. The root bumps are a regional bikeway issue and the Committee continues to seek better approaches than repaving the entire surface of long stretches of good pavement on the bikeway.

There is a semi-annual meeting planned with the DPW where issues such as working together better, the budget, and strategic process, will be discussed.

The issue of where to further address some of these concerns arose. The Select Board liaison may be helpful with these matters but in this case, notice from DPW of the work planned was very short.

It was pointed out that the Bike/Ped Committee acts as an advisory board, . Our approach is to be of help and value to the DPW and the community, but our advice or criticisms sometimes have the opposite effect. Maybe an MOU would be helpful. Efforts have been made to work as partners. Empathy and respect should be guiding lights. An established process would be good.

Bike Month Activities

-Rachel McCafferty, SRTS, Bike Rodeo on May 6th

Rachel McCafferty confirmed that the Bike Rodeo would be held on May 6th at Teaticket School. All 4 elementary schools are participating and contributed funds for a bike raffle. High school students are volunteering but adults are welcomed as well and should email Rachel McCafferty if interested.

-Phoebe Acheson, Falmouth Library bike event on May 20th

Confirmation of this event is not yet forthcoming.

-Additional events?

The committee agreed to do the traditional Bike Breakfast on May 17th from 7:30-9:30 at the Depot Avenue location. The Cape Cod Commission has asked to put up a table. Scott will send out a spread sheet for volunteers.

North Falmouth Parking lot, Patty Johnson

Patty Johnson alerted the committee to the need for more parking in preparation for the Bourne Rail Trail Connector. Parking is only available in Bourne, Pocasset and North Falmouth, which is already overflowing in season. Patty discussed an unbuilt lot adjacent to the North Falmouth parking lot that might be considered for additional parking.

Update on Open Meeting with neighborhoods

The meeting has been postponed until the fall. The state has not yet defined the process for speed limit decreases on state roads and advanced notice would allow Dylan Fernandez, a sponsor of the legislation, to be present.

Update on AutoCamp and signage

Pamela reported that AutoCamp has posted signs, as requested. Still to be done, are infrastructure changes and/or signs that would reduce crowding and loitering on the bikeway. Bells on bicycles that they could provide guests are also strongly recommended to address safety concerns. The committee encouraged Pamela to follow up with AutoCamp.

Potential to work with DPW & MassDOT as a pilot town on signage for new 4 foot passing law

KJ reported that MassDOT will pick towns to pilot signs informing of the new 4' passing law. The committee was in agreement that KJ should seek more information about what is involved with this.

Upcoming grant deadlines

Chris provided a report about available grants and their deadlines which included a CS grant with a deadline of May 1st and a Safe Routes to School grant with an August deadline.

Old Business:

-Steamship Authority meeting for parking lot improvements

KJ reported that a meeting is set with the Town of Falmouth representative for SSA on April 11th. The plan is to ask for safety improvements such as painting in the lot and long term safety improvements. Currently there are no bicycle parking or accommodations. Tim inquired about the long-requested traffic study for this area.

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

A roll call vote was taken.

Neel Aluru -aye

JoAnn Fishbein-aye

Katherine Jansen-aye

Chris McGuire-aye

Peter Mili-aye
Nathaniel Clark-aye
Pamela Rothstein-aye
Scott Lindell-aye
Tim Shea-aye

Relevant Documents

Minutes of 3/1/23, Available grants