

Minutes Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Virtual Committee Meeting Via Zoom

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 7-8:30 PM

Present: Matt Delany, Ellen Adams, Paul Joyce, Nathaniel Clark, Neel Aluru, Katherine Jansen, JoAnn Fishbein

Absent: Peter Mili, Tim Shea

Others Present: Joshua Oliver, Jane Perry

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

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

- Public Comment

Jane Perry offered the following comments: The efforts to name sections of roadway for Kevin Lynch and Bob Fitzpatrick are great and very appropriate; Kevin and Bob were instrumental in getting many improvements on the roadways of Falmouth including securing a 99-year lease for the bikeway and arranging for snow removal for pedestrians and cyclists.

Audible pedestrian signals and audible locator buttons are needed at many intersections for those who are blind or have low vision. Workarounds have been employed in past projects to avoid compliance with ADA requirements. Jane requested that these be included at all pedestrian crossings going forward.

- Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Nat moved to approve the minutes of 6/7/23. JoAnn seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Katherine Jansen-aye

Ellen Adams-aye

Neel Aluru -aye

Matt Delany-aye

Paul Joyce-aye

Nathaniel Clark-aye

JoAnn Fishbein-aye

- Reports:

-Friends of Falmouth Bikeways – Nat Clark

Nat reported that Paul Silvia and the Friends are coordinating with Scott and the DPW about plaque placements commemorating the work of Bob Fitzpatrick and Kevin Lynch.

KJ said that in a few months there will be a need for another liaison to the TAC.

About 30 Menauhant residents attended the last meeting seeking relief from speeding and other bad motorist behaviors that have been occurring regularly and more egregiously in the Menauhant neighborhood. Since a traffic study paradoxically often results in speeds being increased, traffic calming measures are often the best first choice. There is a provision for state law that allows for neighborhoods to set speeds to 25mph unless the area is under a warrant but towns need to adopt the provision. In 1972 this area was placed under a warrant. Options are being investigated including speed tables and undoing the warrant.

West Falmouth Village and Chapoquoit Road have asked for road striping in addition to signs that are already present.

-DPW Update – Tim Shea

-KJ reported the following for Tim: There are some problems with the new striping on Curley Blvd. The DPW will do a walk through with the contractor, KJ, Tim, and Ellen to collaborate on the best approach to reduce traffic into the buffer zone and bike lane safe.

-Jim Grady surveyed the bikeway after the recent heavy rains and addressed the resulting washouts.

-KJ will follow up on the theft of artist Sue Beardsly's work from the bikeway and request assistance from the DPW on welding together the broken sculpture at entrance to the Depot Avenue lot.

New business

- Annual nomination and election of officers

o Secretary

KJ nominated JoAnn for Secretary. Nat seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Katherine Jansen-aye

Ellen Adams-aye

Neel Aluru -aye

Matt Delany-aye

Paul Joyce-aye

Nathaniel Clark-aye

o Treasurer

KJ nominated Neel for Treasurer.

Neel noted that he had stepped into the role when Ted left a year ago, but was never fully updated on what needed to be done. He was willing to step down if anyone else had an interest in the job. Matt said he was interested.

Neel nominated Matt for Treasurer. JoAnn seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Katherine Jansen-aye
Ellen Adams-aye
Neel Aluru -aye
Paul Joyce-aye
Nathaniel Clark-aye
JoAnn Fishbein-aye

o Vice Chair

KJ nominated Nat for Vice Chair. Neel seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Katherine Jansen-aye
Ellen Adams-aye
Neel Aluru -aye
Matt Delany-aye
Paul Joyce-aye
JoAnn Fishbein-aye

o Chair

Nat nominated KJ for Chair. Neel seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Ellen Adams-aye
Neel Aluru -aye
Matt Delany-aye
Paul Joyce-aye
Nathaniel Clark-aye
JoAnn Fishbein-aye

- Discussion about resuming in person Committee meetings vs Zoom

The committee was in agreement that it would prefer to meet in person.

KJ proposed a motion that the meeting be held in person.

A roll call vote was taken.

Katherine Jansen-aye
Ellen Adams-aye
Neel Aluru -aye
JoAnn Fishbein-aye
Matt Delany-aye
Paul Joyce-aye
Nathaniel Clark-aye

The next meeting will be held on August 2 in the Old Water Department Room.

o Town Manager feedback & committee solution for minutes – Katherine Jansen

The present recording secretary will continue to take the minutes for the committee with the committee providing reasonable modifications for hearing disability. The town is considering eliminating recording secretaries.

- Proposal for August in person meeting to align on our top goals – KJ

KJ proposed that the August meeting be used for setting goals after the regular business of safety and the bikeway is taken care of. The consensus was that this was a good idea and the top 3 ideas for goals from each committee member will be sought.

- Proposal to implement “pre-reads” for meetings – KJ

KJ suggest incorporating the common practice of pre-reading about issues prior to the meeting and then using the meeting for discussion of these issues at committee meetings. All agreed that this would be a good practice. Documents will be circulated with the posted agendas to comply with open meeting law.

- Discussion on nationwide increase in pedestrian deaths + local safety issues

Paul Joyce began a study of the reported increase in pedestrian deaths and cyclist crashes nationwide and locally. Paul compared the data to 4 other communities on the Cape and Plymouth, MA. Looking at data, the committee noted that there were more crashes in Falmouth than Plymouth, which has a comparable population. Paul also noted that most of the crashes are taking place in the Teaticket area and around the Mashpee Rotary. Possible explanations discussed included poor quality of bicycles of seasonal workers, more seasonal workers in Falmouth, different cyclist populations, denser populations along the Rte 28 corridor in E. Falmouth. Suggestions were made to look at the data by month and time of day, if possible, to see if there is a seasonal surge in the number of accidents. Matt offered to work with Paul to further examine the data. If patterns can be determined, safety measures could be implemented to make a difference. Vulnerable populations should be the focus.

- o Falmouth’s data on bikes/pedestrians – Paul Joyce

See above.

- o MassDOT Road Safety Audit for West Falmouth recommendations – Jim Gray WFVA

- o Speed sensor cost estimates & work – Neel Aluru

Neel reviewed that he has been constructing a speed sensor having begun this past fall. The intention has not been for enforcement but to inform cyclists about how fast they are going. The sensor is now ready to install in a bare bones form and Neel asked the committee if he should proceed with boxing and sealing it or if a commercial model should be pursued for \$3,000-\$5,000. The Friends of Falmouth Bikeways had expressed interest in supporting projects of the Committee. Nat offered to work with Neel to determine the cost of a vandal proof sensor and approaching the Friends about funding for the speed sensor.

- Signage for events along SSBW – JoAnn Fishbein

Compassionate Care ALS approached JoAnn about placing signs on the bikeway for a swim for charity. Signs would be placed a week or so ahead of the event and taken down afterward. The

committee had no issues with this but recommended that a written policy should be developed for this that can be posted on the FPBC Website. JoAnn offered to draft a policy.

Additionally, the Cape Cod Marathon wanted to place signs cautioning about the race on the bikeway. Last year the committee agreed to a similar request. The committee had no issues with the request.

- Feedback on options for pump at Depot Station – Neel Aluru

Neel reported that when he inquired to the company about how to repair the pump on the repair station it was suggested that the whole thing be replaced. He then examined further and found that a faulty piston could be replaced for about \$100. The committee agreed that the better option was to try to repair rather than replace the whole unit.

Other Committee Business for next Meeting & Adjournment: Prep for goal setting in August

At 8:30 JoAnn motioned to adjourn. Neel seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Katherine Jansen-aye

Ellen Adams-aye

Neel Aluru -aye

JoAnn Fishbein-aye

Matt Delany-aye

Paul Joyce-aye

Nathaniel Clark-aye

Relevant Documents

Minutes of 6/7/23, [Impact.dot.state.ma.us](https://www.impact.state.ma.us)