

Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Wednesday, August 2, 2023, 7:00pm

Town Hall, 59 Town Hall Square, Old Water Department Room

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

Others Present: Jim Grey, Burton Shank

• **Call to order**

At 7:02 KJ called the meeting to order.

• **Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes from previous meeting

Ellen moved to approve the minutes of 7/12/2023. Neel seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Neel Aluru -aye

JoAnn Fishbein-aye

Tim Shea-abstain

Ellen Adams-aye

Peter Mili-abstain

Matt Delaney-aye

Nathaniel Clark-aye

Katherine Jansen-aye

Paul Joyce-Aye

All in favor; motion passed.

• **Questions or comments about pre-read materials**

No concerns.

New business

• **West Falmouth Village Association Road Safety Audit items for town action: Jim Gray**

Jim Gray reviewed that the group has been working to improve safety in West Falmouth for over a year after increasing traffic incidents including a fatality. Route 28A is a state road and there are extra issues to consider. State representatives have been helpful in the effort. MA DOT completed a road safety audit. 205 families responded to a survey. The focus has become intersections especially Chase Road and Old Dock Road where they intersect the bikeway and other roadways. Jim Grey hoped for measures to calm traffic and improve safety.

A discussion included the following:

- Two issues are enforcement and structure with structure being the focus of the committee.
- Flashing lights could be helpful to alert cyclists and motorists at intersections of SSBW .
- Old Dock and Chappaquoit Roads are too narrow for added bike lanes, advocate something in the crosswalk, more permanently affixed to the road, could be helpful.
- The intersection near the West Falmouth Market is not well designed with problems including the crosswalk funneling pedestrians into the parking lot of the market.
- The committee agreed to bring 3 requests to the TAC: sharrows on Old Dock and Chappaquoit Roads; motion activated flashing red lights at the intersection of the SSBW and Old Dock and Chappaquoit Roads that alert both cyclists and motorists; and place semi-permanent pedestrian crossing signs, that can be removed in the winter but are also somewhat vandal resistant, in the crosswalks

• **Potential trail around Long Pond: Burton Shank:**

Burton Shank updated the committee. The DPW said that a potential trail around Long Pond cannot be cleared for an alternate bikeway to the FHS because of the public water supply and safety concerns. He reported, however, that a former water department official said that improvements could be made to the existing trail if the water shed plan was adhered to. Burton Shank is now seeking a copy of the watershed plan.

A discussion included the following:

- The DCR and MassTrails could be helpful. They have done projects like this before.
- This route is a less costly solution to the east/west issue.
- An offer to delete the expensive east/west proposal in favor of this one could be made. However, the funding sources differ. Both routes should be considered. The Long Pond route might be a less expensive option until a more permanent route is established. Burton pointed out total cost would be about \$120,000 per linear mile versus millions for a bike way along Gifford Street.
- The DPW could do traffic calming measures on the main roads but they would have concerns with security and use of the trail in the woods in the winter.
- KJ will send contact information for DCR and MassTrails to Burton Shank.

• **Public comment**

None.

- Goal setting exercise for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

The community has been very concerned with the poor behavior of motorists, especially driving at excessive speeds. What is the role of the committee? A discussion included the following:

-There has been interest in Chapter 90 Section 17c which allows communities to lower speed limits to 25 mph in thickly settled areas. A thickly settled area has houses less than 200 feet apart for ¼ mile. However, streets with “special speed regulations” are not automatically moved to 25 mph. There is a speed study process in order to make changes. As an example, Central Avenue is under a Special Speed Regulation (established in 1972) which is exempt from Chapter 90 Section 17c.

-Many neighborhood groups would like to see better behavior from motorists that drive in their neighborhoods. They are looking for someone to advocate for them.

-KJ suggested that the committee host an informational meeting to discuss traffic calming protocols and address Neighborhood concerns, inviting the TAC, DPW, Police, Town Manager, MA DOT, Colleen Medeiros of the Cape Cod Commission and Neighborhood Associations

-Some members felt that the TAC or the neighborhood groups could take the initiative and questioned if this is the role of the FPBC committee. There was a discussion about the overall role of the BPC in our Town.

. Specifically for the meeting, it should first be determined what the DPW thinks about this.

-KJ will speak with Peter McConarty about this and see if they are interested in co-hosting..

Brainstorming:

Committee members listed their top three goals, one each on a sticky note.

o Prioritizing

This was tabled due to lack of time.

o Identification of top 3-5 goals for the Committee

o Next steps- KJ will send out a link to Mural Board to committee members to each review and vote on the priorities.

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

All in favor; motion passed.