

Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Wednesday, September 6, 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 (KJ), JoAnn Fishbein, Peter Mili, Tim Shea

Others Present: Paul Silvia and Cary Silvia, Friends of Falmouth Bikeways

Robert Miscali, Selectboard liaison to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

• **Call to order**

At 7:00 KJ called the meeting to order.

• **Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

Tim moved to approve the minutes of 8/2/23. Ellen seconded.

All in favor; motion passed.

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

No concerns.

New business

-Public Comment

KJ called attention to the 3 emails that were received this past month. She noted that she was taking an open meeting law training law shortly but in the interest of transparency, until an opinion was rendered on share drives, she had forwarded the emails to committee members.

The first email was from a concerned parent of young children learning to ride on the bikeway. They wondered if ambassadors could be helpful with calming traffic. What did the committee think of this for next summer? A discussion included the following:

- E-bikes should not be linked to the speeding concerns.
- Ambassadors would be trained volunteers, from both community and the bike committee, maybe with special colored tee shirts.
- Maybe just the presence of someone official looking in a special tee shirt could calm traffic.
- The issue is not only speed but all the other traffic combined with speed like dogs on long leashes, people with hearing obstructed by earbuds, young children, scooters, skateboards.
- Some members expressed concern that the ambassadors might not be taken seriously, especially regarding speeding.
- Education is most likely the best solution to changing habits.

The second email addressed graffiti under the bridge near Woods Hole. Should a mural celebrating science replace the graffiti? A suggestion was made to involve students in the project. Paul Silvia believed Jane Baker, from Falmouth High School, was currently working on this.

The third email addressed the lack of bike racks at some beaches. JoAnn will coordinate this project, and investigate potential funding sources. The last round of bike racks was funded by the CPC in 2015. The deadline for the next round of CPC Funding, for the April 2024 Town Meeting has already passed.

-Alignment on priorities for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

o Goals identified in August meeting

4 goals were identified and agreed upon: An east/west connector; Connecting SSBW with the Bourne Rail Trail; Traffic calming; Education.

The regular business of the committee will be conducted and simultaneously, the 4 goals will be addressed; some are short term and others will be much longer in the works. Some goals will require just support from the committee.

o Leader for each goal

Matt will lead the effort to create an East/West Connector;

Nat offered to lead the effort to connect the Bourne Rail Trail with the SSBW. This will be primarily supporting the Bourne Rail Trail:

Ellen will lead the education efforts which will combine Safe Streets and Bikeway education. KJ will introduce her to Rachel McCafferty of Safe Routes to Schools;

Tim will focus on traffic calming with assistance from KJ;

o Identification of top action items for each goal

Leaders will identify action steps, near, mid, and long term. KJ can help.

o Next steps

Updates to be done at the next meeting

-Discussion of committee roles for education & community outreach, including events

A brief history of these efforts was given: Winter rides were conducted with up to 40 participants; Enterprise columns were written but author fatigue was an issue. Suggestions were made to collaborate with other groups doing bike stuff, and see what the Senior Center and Newcomers' Club was doing. JoAnn offered to ~~lead outreach efforts~~ organize a winter ride in March. Ellen and Matt agreed to work on articles through the Enterprise.

-Discussion of speed indicator signs on the Shining Sea Bikeway

A discussion included the following:

- The original idea was to flash the speed of those using the SSBW in the hopes of calming speeding cyclists. Neel constructed a speed indicator but it became more complicated and costly as the project developed.
- The thinking now is to define the problem and if it is a problem, how to intervene.
- Some concern was expressed that cyclists might use a speed indicator to see how fast they can go.
- If costs of the indicator are \$1,000, is it worth it? Maybe so.
- Enforcement might not be the best solution; education is. There are multiple, varied users of the path, who need education about safety on the path.
- The focus should be on safety rather than etiquette.
- Speed limits could be painted on the bikeway.
- KJ will ask DPW about painting speed signs. Near intersections will be especially important.
- Are there any success stories in other communities for reducing speed?
- Maybe speed limits could be lifted for times such as early morning.

-Discussion of TAC and BPC

It was noted that the TAC deals with very specific issues. The traffic problems that the committee has been concerned with are pervasive. There is overlap.

A top-down approach could be helpful and Jed Cornock, town planner, will be invited to attend a PBC to discuss town planning views.

It was noted that there will be a Traffic Calming Information Session on October 19th at the Hermann Room. This session will be hosted by the BPC and DPW and we are working on a MassDOT speaker.

-Discussion of upcoming DPW & BPC meeting agenda

The semi-annual DPW/BPC meeting is September 12, and will be attended by KJ, Tim and Nat as representatives of the BPC. KJ hopes to hear what the DPW is doing and to look for opportunities to improve conditions on the roadways for walkers and cyclists. Opportunities to help the DPW will be sought. It is hoped that there can be alignment of goals.

Should town funding/personnel be increased for the maintenance of the SSBW? A lot of income is generated for the town because of this tourist attraction and it is a struggle to keep it in good condition.

-BPC Facebook Page

KJ asked if anyone would be willing to maintain the BPC Facebook page. Matt agreed to do this and to create an Instagram presence and link the two. Ellen offered to assist with content.

Other Committee Business for next Meeting

Eversource plans

At 8:35 Nat moved to adjourn. Ellen seconded.

All in favor; motion passed.

Relevant Documents

BP Committee emails,