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Town Administrator's Advisory Committee on Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway
Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2023

2024 FEB 2 PM 2:04

TOWN CLERK BOURNE

(Zoom Remote Public Access Meeting)

Members in Attendance: David McPherson, Chair; John Carroll, Vice Chair; Ken Cheitlin, Clerk; Mark Emmons; Mary Jane Mastrangelo; and George Slade

(Members absent: Kerrie Schofield)

Others in Attendance: Timothy Lydon; Marlene McCollem; and Mathew Silvia

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mr. McPherson.

Public comment: Mr. Silvia asked if there has been any movement on authorizing a change in the size of the committee. Mr. McPherson indicated there had not been to date.

Approval of minutes: Mr. Lydon pointed out that, under the "Update on Canal Bridges advisory committee meeting," the Corps of Engineers does not anticipate an increase in the raising and lowering of the train bridge (not that it does not anticipate an increase in bridge traffic). *A motion to approve the minutes, with that amendment, of the Committee's September 27, 2023 meeting was made by Mr. Carroll, and seconded by Mr. Emmons. The motion passed 6-0.*

Discussion of Canal Bridges advisory committee input: Ms. Mastrangelo pointed out that, if the committee asks for input, it must make it easy to get good stakeholder input. Mr. McPherson indicated that he would push for input in advance, and would let this committee know as soon as the next meeting is scheduled and will ask for the agenda well in advance.

Update and discussion of Phase 1: Mr. Lydon reported on status, including right of way requirements (six temporary easements and one permanent easement needed). A notice of intent was filed this week, two months later than scheduled, but the 100% design submittal is still expected in January 2024. The 75% design submittal has still not been accepted, as we are waiting for comments from the Rail Division of MassDOT.

Updates and discussion of Phases 2-4: Mr. Lydon stated that there was nothing to report in this regard.

Updates and discussion of rail to trail alternative: Mr. Cheitlin updated the committee on efforts to obtain approval for removal of the track. He reported that Rep. Xiarhos had changed his position and was no longer willing to have his name associated as in support of the rail-to-trail approach. A meeting with Galen Mook of MassBikes is scheduled at which clarification will be sought that Rep. Fernandes did not mean to suggest in his proposed legislation that commuter rail will go down the Falmouth Secondary. Mr. Cheitlin further reported that, based on numbers reported by the operator to the Board of Managers of the UCRTS, 3.26 tractor trailers will be

added to the roads if the track is removed. These trucks will be added only to Bourne roads; no trucks will be added to Falmouth roads. The Falmouth municipal trash will continue to be sent to the Bourne ISWM facility by truck. The operator's claims of his livelihood being threatened by removal of the track flies in the face of the fact that the operator ran a thriving business before he had use of the track. Also, the operator agreed in his lease of the UCRTS that his use of the track could be taken away, in which case his only options are to amend or terminate his lease. Finally, Mr. Cheitlin stated that another obstacle to a rail-with-trail approach is that the right of way for the railbed is too narrow in 14 segments of 0.2 miles each, the required width being at least 75 feet. Ms. Mastrangelo commented that the average resident's sentiment is to build rail-to-trail, pointing out that there is a "save the trail" Facebook group. She also described a recent JBCC meeting at which it was clear the military was open to discussion of an alternative to the Falmouth Secondary, but that the military would "need something." Mr. Cheitlin responded that the average citizen defers to the military. Mr. McPherson advised that the committee should advance rail alternatives.

Discussion of other bicycle-related projects and events: This agenda item was tabled for a future meeting.

Proposed future meeting dates: December 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (via Zoom) and January 10, 2024 (via Zoom or at the Bourne Veterans' Memorial Community Center, Room 1, TBD)

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Emmons, seconded by Mr. Carroll. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Cheitlin, Clerk

These Minutes were approved by a 7-0 vote of the members on January 10, 2024.

URL for this committee's agendas: <https://www.townofbourne.com/node/88513/agenda>

URL for this committee's meeting minutes:
<https://www.townofbourne.com/node/88513/minutes>