

**Town Administrator's Advisory Committee on Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway
Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

(Zoom Remote Public Access Meeting)

Members in Attendance: David McPherson, Chair; John Carroll, Vice Chair; Ken Cheitlin, Clerk; Kerrie Schofield; and George Slade

(Members absent:) Mark Emmons; Mary Jane Mastrangelo)

Others in Attendance: Jeanne Azarovitz; Timothy Lydon (joined at 6:35 pm); Michael Rausch; Amy Sharpe; Mathew Silvia; and John York

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. McPherson.

On behalf of the committee, condolences were offered by Mr. Carroll to the McPherson family on the loss of Mr. McPherson's son.

Public comment: Mr. York indicated he would have some comments under the agenda item entitled "Discussion of other bicycle-related projects and events."

Approval of minutes: Consideration of the minutes of the October 25, 2023 meeting were deferred to the committee's January meeting.

Updates and discussion of rail to trail alternative: Mr. Cheitlin updated the committee on efforts in this regard since our last meeting on Oct. 25, 2023. He and Katherine Jansen, chair of the Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, met with representatives of the Cape Cod Commission who indicated they would be unable to take a position on the pivot to rail-to-trail for regulatory reasons and because they have no direct role in this matter. The failure to consider a new alternative track in the Commission's 2017 feasibility study was simply because, at that time, there were no plans for replacement of the Cape Cod bridges. They confirmed that there are and would be no plans to extend commuter rail to Falmouth. (Mr. York pointed out later in the discussion that any addition of commuter rail will trigger significant housing requirements.)

Mr. Cheitlin and Ms. Jansen also met with Galen Mook, executive director of MassBike, who subsequent to their meeting confirmed with Rep. Dylan Fernandes that he is opposed to removal of the F2 line, wants to explore on road bicycle lanes, and wonders who/how many would benefit from the Bourne Rail Trail.

Mr. Cheitlin reported that he and Mr. Slade were interviewed about the rail-to-trail BRT on Bourne Community TV by Kathy Fox Alfano. That interview is available at <https://youtu.be/vLBAIJZuCcg>.

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There followed an extensive discussion of the December 4, 2023 meeting of the Falmouth Select Board, during which there was consideration of the select board members' position on removing the F2 line for the BRT. Objection was made by Leonard Johnson and others to the process by which this item was included and the discussion held. The proponents of rail-to-trail had been given a scant three days' notice of this item on the agenda and the agenda item itself was a misleading statement about support for the extension of the Shining Sea Bikeway, when, in fact, it was clear that the motion to be considered was always and only intended as a statement in opposition to removing the F2 line. Again, without advance notice, members of the audience, both for and against rail-to-trail, were invited to speak. A motion to postpone decision on a draft letter to Governor Healey in favor of rail-with-trail, that was provided only to the select board members, failed on a 2-3 vote, immediately after which a motion to approve sending of the letter passed 3-2. Mr. Cheitlin reported that Mashpee has sent its own letter to the Governor opposing removal of the F2 line.

Discussion of other bicycle-related projects and events: Mr. York described the process by which MassDOT gives information to the Bourne DPW director, who is then supposed to relay that information to the town. He suggested that the committee should reach out to Town Administrator Marlene McCollem to ensure that the new DPW director communicates with other town departments regarding information from MassDOT.

Update and discussion of Phase 1: Mr. Lydon reported that they are working to wrap up the 75% design of Phase 1. There is a Conservation Committee meeting scheduled for Dec. 21, 2023. Final signoff from the Rail and Transit Division of MassDOT is still pending and it is necessary to get its signoff on the NOI before the Conservation Committee meeting. That, however, will not affect the planned submission in January 2024 of the 100% design of Phase 1. Mr. Lydon also reported that they had met with town counsel and MassDOT regarding the seven temporary easements and one permanent easement needed for Phase 1. Those easements are expected to be the subject of a warrant at the annual town meeting that will authorize the select board to put those takings in place.

Updates and discussion of Phases 2-4: Mr. Lydon stated that there was no progress to report with respect to Phases 2, 3 or 4.

Proposed future meeting dates: January 10, 2024 (via Zoom); and February 14, 2024 (via Zoom or in person TBD)

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Slade. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0 (Ms. Schofield having left the meeting), and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Cheitlin, Clerk

These Minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote of the members, with two abstentions, on January 10, 2024.

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

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<https://www.townofbourne.com/node/88513/minutes>

