

**Town Administrator's Advisory Committee on Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway  
Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

**(Held as a Zoom Remote Public Access Meeting)**

Members in Attendance: David McPherson, Chair; John Carroll (joining at 6:08 pm), Vice Chair; Ken Cheitlin, Clerk; Mark Emmons; Mary Jane Mastrangelo; and George Slade

(Members absent: none)

Others in Attendance: Timothy Lydon (joining at 6:11 pm); Michael Rausch (recording); Dave McClung; Matthew Silvia; and representatives of Bourne TV (recording)

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

Public Comment: Mr. Silvia asked if the comments made at the November public hearing would be incorporated in the Committee's plans for 2023. Mr. McPherson responded that the comments would be discussed later in the meeting.

Approval of the minutes: *A motion to approve the minutes of the Committee's October 12, 2022 meeting was made by Mr. Slade, and seconded by Mr. Emmons. The motion passed 4-0, with Ms. Mastrangelo abstaining.*

Discussion of 2023 meetings: Mr. McPherson suggested that, in 2023, the Committee's meetings be held alternating between in person and remote via Zoom, with no hybrid meetings which have proven problematic. It was agreed that, should there be a significant covid spike, the Committee would revert to 100% of its meetings held remotely via Zoom.

Update and discussion of Phases 1 and 2: Mr. Lydon reported that Phase 1 design is still under review by MassDOT. This past Tuesday, revised plans for the boardwalk required in that phase were submitted to MassDOT. Phase 2 will be considered for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at this Friday's Joint Transportation Committee meeting (to consider TIP-eligible projects).

Update and discussion of Phase 4: Mr. Lydon reported that Phase 4 (in conjunction with a joint request by the town of Falmouth for the Shining Sea Bikeway extension) would also be on the request list of projects to be considered for the TIP at the upcoming Joint Transportation Committee meeting. If accepted, Phase 4 and the Shining Sea Bikeway extension would be presumably be added to the TIP for construction in 2029. As for the status of design of Phase 4, Mr. Lydon reported that the design has been delayed by approximately three months due to a cost analysis of utilizing slope easements vs. retaining walls, with walls being the preferred approach. As such, 25% design of Phase 4 has not yet been submitted to MassDOT. Discussion followed concerning objections to the proposed Phase 4 design raised by Cataumet residents. To address concerns related to the impacts of a rail with trail project on the village, Mr. Lydon reported that there has been discussion of bypassing Washington Park with an access point on

town-owned property on Depot Road. Ms. Mastrangelo pointed out that the Cataumet residents will oppose any terminus of the trail at Cataumet (the likely outcome of a significant delay between construction of Phase 4 and construction of the much more difficult rail with trail design of Phases 2 and 3). She suggested the consideration of extending Phase 4 to end at Barlows Landing Road. The members agreed that some study should be made of options for extension of Phase 4 to a terminus not in Cataumet, but it was pointed out that such an extension would be significant in terms of distance and challenges in construction, and for that reason, may not be feasible. *A motion was made by Mr. Cheitlin and seconded by Mr. Slade to request the town administrator to direct the town's design consultant to make a general assessment of the feasibility of an alternate terminus for Phase 4, including the challenges in extending the Phase 4 terminus to Barlows Landing Road, with a view toward reporting back to the Committee at its next meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.* It was then decided that it was time for an interim report on the Committee's work and conclusions to the town, as a prerequisite to a likely recommendation thereafter of a pivot to a rail to trail project. Mr. Carroll agreed to lead the effort to draft the interim report.

MassTrails Grant application period: The members agreed that the Committee would not recommend an application by the town for the next upcoming MassTrails grant cycle, on the theory that we have sufficient funds at this point for upcoming design work, and we do not want to jeopardize future grant applications by too often requesting funding.

Future meeting date: February 8, 2023

Adjourn: *Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Slade. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Cheitlin, Clerk

*These Minutes were approved by a 4-0 vote of the members on February 8, 2023.*

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>

From: David McPherson <david@fourpondsfinancial.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Bike Path Meeting 1/11/23  
Date: January 12, 2023 at 7:55:37 AM EST  
To: Ken Cheitlin <kenac@comcast.net>, John Carroll  
<carroll.jg@gmail.com>, George Slade <geoslade@msn.com>, Mark Emmons  
<mark.m.emmons@gmail.com>, "Lydon, Timothy"  
<TLydon@townofbourne.com>, Mary Jane Mastrangelo <mjm@mrainc.org>

Hi all,

See the email below sent to MJ following last night's meeting by  
Matthew Silvia, who was in attendance.

Dave

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mary Jane Mastrangelo <MMastrangelo@townofbourne.com>  
Date: Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 9:46 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Bike Path Meeting 1/11/23  
To: David McPherson <david@fourpondsfinancial.com>

David,

Please see email below. I would appreciate it if you could  
forward to the rest of the committee.

Thx,

Mj

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Matthew Silvia <msilvia@whoi.edu>  
Date: January 11, 2023 at 8:20:05 PM EST  
To: Mary Jane Mastrangelo <MMastrangelo@townofbourne.com>  
Subject: Bike Path Meeting 1/11/23

Ms. Mastrangelo,

I apologize that I was unable to find Mr. McPherson's email address on  
the town website to send this to the committee's chair and my current  
internet is limited. I would appreciate you forwarding this message to  
him and the other members of the committee and thank you for the time  
out of your schedule this evening.

Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the time and consideration you've given to the public comments received. I think we all want a bike path that accentuates Bourne's natural beauty -- regardless of the effort to see it through.

It appears clear that the committee and public are aligned on preferring the rail to trail. And, in parallel, I am pleased to see the motion pursuing the feasibility of extending the Phase 4 terminus to Barlows Landing.

Being within the committee's charge to explore rail to trail, I would encourage the committee to consider the outflow of support that would result from the community in pivoting from exclusively pursuing rail with trail to an approach that is data driven, considers all viable options, and is communicated to the public in a formal interim report. This will significantly help to calibrate the committee's future efforts with what the public will ultimately support. I agree with the comments made that none of the committee's effort to date has been wasted and is all in support of an end product we'll be proud of.

Cheers from 9°20'N 86°42'W,  
Matt Silvia, resident of Cataumet

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Matthew Silvia  
Research Engineer  
Deep Submergence Laboratory  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, MA 02543  
Tel: +1 (508) 289-3054

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