

**Town Administrator's Advisory Committee on Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway  
Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

**(Zoom Remote Public Access Meeting)**

Members in Attendance: David McPherson, Chair; John Carroll, Vice Chair; Ken Chertlin, Clerk; Mark Emmons; and George Slade (Members absent: none)

Others in Attendance: Timothy Lydon; John York; and Michael Rausch

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

Public Comment: Mr. York expressed concern regarding the safety of bikers and pedestrians using the Shore Road bridge over the Pocasset River, a bridge that will be needed as part of the BRT pending completion of Phase 3. Mr. Lydon indicated his appreciation for Mr. York's concern and pointed out that it was already a concern, separate from the BRT, that merits attention.

Approval of the minutes: *A motion to approve the minutes of the Committee's October 21, 2020 meeting, with one change from "Novis Engineering" to "Nobis Engineering," was made by Mr. Carroll and seconded by Mr. Emmons. The motion passed, 5-0.*

Update on Phase 1: Mr. Lydon reported that the Comment Review Meeting (CRM) had occurred and that, on November 17, representatives of the Town, VHB, Jacobs Engineering Group (on behalf of Mass Coastal), Mass Coastal, and MassDOT met for a site walk of the Phase 1 area. Representatives of the environmental and utility divisions of MassDOT did not attend, so an additional site walk will be necessary and the design public hearing, tentatively set for December 18, will likely have to be delayed to January 2021. The 75% design is due from VHB by July 30, 2021. *A motion to advise the Town to amend the contract with VHB to provide for 100% design of Phase 1 was made by Mr. Chertlin and seconded by Mr. Emmons. The motion passed, 5-0.*

Update on Phase 2: Mr. Lydon reported that VHB is having difficulty designing this phase of the BRT, due to various issues, including problems with the slope, the right of way width, and the 18' offset requirement. MassDOT has now assigned a project manager for Phase 2, Stephanie Upson. It was suggested by the Committee that efforts be made now to include Phase 2 in MassDOT's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. McPherson will confer with Steve Tupper at the Cape Cod Commission in this regard.

Update on Phase 4: A \$2.7 million estimate has now been received for the cost of design and construction of Phase 4.b. It is expected that the filing of a Project Need Form (PNF) with MassDOT for Phase 4.b. is imminent. Following that will be a site visit, with 25% design expected by summer 2021. The Committee members suggested that a public information session concerning Phase 4.b. should be scheduled.

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Discussion of Phase 3 timetable: *A motion to advise the Town to proceed with the filing of a Project Need Form (PNF) for Phase 3 was made by Mr. Emmons and seconded by Mr. Carroll. The motion passed, 5-0.*

Discussion of Community Preservation Act town meeting article: Mr. McPherson reported that the town meeting was lightly attended (56 voters), there was no public comment on any articles, and all articles passed, including the Town's request for \$150,000 of CPA funds for design of the BRT. There was good attendance by BRT supporters.

Discussion of 2021 MassTrails Grant Program: Mr. McPherson reported that the application period is now open. Mr. Lydon was asked to review current funding to ascertain next steps for which funding would be sought. Mr. McPherson will update and circulate his related spreadsheet. Mr. Lydon will confer with VHB to obtain an updated cost estimate for design of Phase 4.b. There was some confusion expressed over the requirements for use of the matching funds needed for the MassTrails grant and it was agreed that that would need to be clarified prior to submission of an application. This agenda item will be taken up again at the next meeting.

Other business: Mr. McPherson shared details of a "2020 Moving Together Conference," and related materials indicating that the greatest economic impacts from trails is considered to come from the trails on Cape Cod, and that MassTrails priority vision for trails includes the BRT. Mr. McPherson also reported that he will be attending a Cape Cod Commission meeting on November 19, concerning bringing commuter rail to Buzzards Bay. Mr. Cheitlin reported that Falmouth installed a counter on the Shining Sea Bikeway that showed a total of 120,000 users in the months of August, September and October, demonstrating the incredible utilization of that trail. Mr. Cheitlin also reported that the Friends of the Bourne Rail Trail have prepared and will be submitting a comment letter on the 25% design of Phase 1. Mr. Lydon reported that DCR has not yet indicated its willingness to accept responsibility for maintenance of the BRT, something to address down the road. Finally, Mr. Lydon suggested that the Committee consider recommending to the Town an expansion of its scope to include transportation issues more broadly. Mr. McPherson indicated that this topic would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Future meeting dates: December 16, 2020, January 20, 2021, and February 17, 2021, each at 6:00 p.m., at the Pocasset Community Building or as a Zoom remote public access meeting, depending on the state of pandemic-related restrictions.

Adjourn: *Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Slade, and passed, 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Cheitlin, Clerk

*These Minutes were approved by a 4-0 vote of the Members on December 16, 2020.*