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Town Administrator's Advisory Committee on Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway
2021 MAY 24 AM 8:29 Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021

TOWN CLERK BOURNE (Zoom Remote Public Access Meeting)

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

Others in Attendance: Clelie Fielding; Timothy Lydon; MJ Mastrangelo; and Michael Rausch

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

Public Comment: None

Approval of the minutes: *A motion to approve the minutes of the Committee's March 17, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Cheitlin, and seconded by Mr. Slade. The motion passed, 5-0.*

Updates on design work - Phases 1, 2 and 4: Mr. Lydon reported on his "Over the Shoulder" (pre-25% design) meeting on April 5, 2021, with representatives of MassDOT, its Rail Division and its consultant, concerning Phase 1. Due to the number of users expected on the trail, MassDOT is concerned; however, roadblocks to proceeding were resolved at the meeting. Additional geotechnical work will be needed with respect to the boardwalk at a cost of approximately \$20,000. Temporary easements will be needed for construction, but only a few permanent easements will be necessary. MassDOT is still not ready for a design public hearing. The Committee then reviewed a slide presentation of rail-with-trail projects that was generously put together by Mr. Emmons. Mr. Lydon then walked the Committee members through the proposed route for Phase 2, highlighting particular challenges, such as a section that will have to be immediately adjacent to Shore Road, the segment going under the bridge at Briarwood, and the place where the trail will have to ramp down near Valley Bars Circle. Phase 2 was described by Mr. Lydon as "long and tough," although "not as difficult as Phase 3." With respect to Phase 4, Mr. Lydon reported that the Scraggy Neck area is the particular challenge. Mr. McPherson suggested that residents' feedback would be important. Ms. Mastrangelo expressed her view that Cataumet Depot is also a big challenge, being a tight route and anticipating residents' resistance to anything that will grow business in that area. Mr. McPherson will arrange for an on-site visit for the Committee's next meeting.

Discussion of draft Transportation Improvement Plan: The Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization is meeting on April 26, 2021 to discuss the draft 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Phase 1, currently in the TIP for construction in 2024, is moved to 2025 in the proposed TIP. It is expected that Phase 4 and the Shining Sea Bikeway Extension, now in the proposed TIP for construction in 2026, will be removed as a regional project per recommendation of the JTC, to make way for the inclusion of a Mashpee project with a higher project score (81 vs. 71), and that has been in the queue for a long time. The JTC recommended

that Phase 4 and the Extension be promoted instead as a state project in next year's 2023-2027 STIP (for construction in 2027).

Discussion of meeting with Town Administrator: Since the Committee's last meeting, Mr. McPherson and Mr. Slade met with the town administrator (Anthony Schiavi) and the assistant town administrator (Glenn Cannon) to bring them up to speed on the Committee's work. They were very encouraging, recommending that we seek political support for funding and, toward this end, make contact with the region's legislative delegation. The suggestion was also made that the Committee's mandate be expanded to encompass all bicycle and pedestrian matters in the town, rather than be limited to the BRT. Neither Mr. Schiavi or Mr. Cannon expressed a strong view, at least at this point, on the issue of pulling the track as a way to simplify and expedite creation of the BRT.

Other business: Mr. McPherson received an email from the Rail-To-Trail Conservancy seeking applications for grants for projects such as the BRT. The deadline for applications is July 12, 2021. Mr. McPherson suggested the town be advised to "think big" in applying for \$25 million in funding to build the entire trail. Under this grant program, construction would be required to be completed by 2029. Mr. McPherson will reach out to the Cape Cod Commission for help with the application, which is quite involved.

Future meeting dates: May 19, 2021, June 16, 2021, and July 21, 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. A request was made to reschedule the June and July meetings, so those dates are subject to change.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Cheitlin. The motion passed, 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Cheitlin, Clerk

These Minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote of the Members on May 19, 2021.