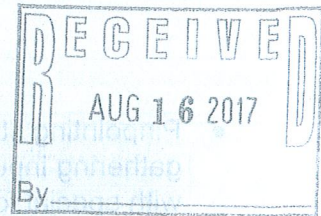


Stratham Board of Selectmen
August 16, 2017



Dear Sirs:

Please accept this letter of application to form an ad-hoc Stratham Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Committee under the Board with the mission and goals outlined below. Our group would have a maximum number of 8 individuals - one member from each of the following (Conservation Committee and Planning Board) and up to 6 members from the community at-large. The Stratham Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Committee would support and facilitate the town's existing mandate for connectivity throughout Stratham. Since there are many groups that impact pedestrian and cyclist access (such as the Stratham school district and the Cooperative Middle School, NHDOT, Conservation and Recreation commissions, and highway and police departments), we would coordinate with these groups to advocate for improvements and generate innovative solutions across the community.

Mission Statements:

The proposed committee plans to assist in developing a new version of the town's master plan and updating the planning regulations by working with town officers and committees with the goal of improving the safety of pedestrians and cyclists as well as connecting existing trails and public lands in Stratham.

The proposed committee believes:

- Walking and cycling is an inexpensive and universal activity for the preservation of health for people of all ages including children and seniors and should be easily accessible to the entire community.
- Everyone has a right to walk, run, and cycle safely in their own neighborhood and town.
- Cycling and walking is the most environmental and sustainable form of transportation which includes commuting to work and school.
- As a form of transportation, cycling and walking requires infrastructure which should be addressed in town planning and regulations.
- Walkers and cyclists are experts of their own streets and neighborhoods and must be included in Stratham's planning process.

Specific projects of the committee:

- Researching existing trails and pedestrian infrastructure in Stratham with the goal of distributing this information to the public.
- Starting an exchange with the community to identify short-term and long-term projects which improve pedestrian safety.

- Pinpointing strategic properties for potential trails and connectivity by gathering input from neighbors, town officers, planning and conservation with special focus on easements and town-owned lands.
- In cooperation with the school districts, the Stratham Police Department, and the Recreation Department initiating walker, cycling, and driver projects in schools and the community to educate about street safety and encourage walking and cycling as a short-distance method of travel.
- Setting short- and long-term goals for a budget and researching available funds/grant programs to offset expenses. This would also include expert workshops on the topic by Scott Bogle (Rockingham Planning Commission), Tad Putney (Town Planner in Brookline, NH) and Jen Mates (Assistant Town Engineer for Exeter).
- Initiating discussions with the NHDOT and state legislature regarding improvements to state roads in Stratham and finding solutions to allow pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross routes 108 and 33.
- Cooperating with surrounding communities in order to facilitate pedestrian and cycling connectivity with their ongoing efforts.

Thank you for considering our request. We hope you will support the creation of this ad-hoc committee.

Sincerely yours,

Andrea Benson - 24 Butterfield Lane, Stratham
 Melissa Gahr - Stratham Heights Road, Stratham
 Pamela Hollasch - 15 Greta's Way, Stratham
 Bettina Kersten - Lucien Way, Stratham