

## **Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Committee Minutes of 09/29/17**

Called to order at 8:34am by Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator.

In attendance:

Andrea Benson (community member), Melissa Gahr (community member), Seth Hickey (P&R), Pamela Hollasch (community member), Bettina Kersten (community member), James Payne (Planning), Jennifer Antonakakis (alternate-community member, in attendance 8:55am-9:45am). Tavis Austin (Town Planner), Paul Deschaine (Town Administrator), Tim Roache (Rockingham Planning Commission-RPC, Director) and members of the public: Annmarie Wera, Jen Ryan and Mark Phelps.

Paul Deschaine called the meeting to order and started the agenda with election of officers. On a motion by AMB, seconded by PH and unanimously passed Melissa Gahr was elected Chairperson and assumed responsibilities of the Chair. On a motion by PH, seconded by AMB, and unanimously passed Bettina Kersten was elected Co-chair. On a motion by BK, seconded by PH and unanimously passed Andrea Benson was elected Secretary.

PD presented to the group information (summarized in the attached 3 handouts) regarding the conduct of this committee with specific reference to the Chapter 91-A, commonly known as the "Right to Know Law". Additionally he shared the Town of Stratham's Website and Social Media Site policies which apply to both this committee's webpage (<https://www.strathamnh.gov/pedestrian-and-cyclist-advocacy-committee>) and the Facebook page (Stratham Walkers Runners Bikers).

As of 9:01am MG left the meeting and BK assumed the Chair.

Discussion ensued regarding the group's meeting time and mission. On a motion by AMB, seconded by JP and unanimously passed the group adopted their mission statement as:

"The 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 committee believes:

- Walking and cycling are inexpensive and universal activities 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 his or her own neighborhood and town.
- Cycling and walking are the most environmental and sustainable forms 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."

A vote on setting the group's regular meeting time was tabled for another meeting.

Information was presented to the group by Tim Roache regarding the remaining Federal funds from Safe Routes to School. These could be used for planning projects for the ~2miles surrounding Stratham Memorial School and would not require matching funds. On a motion by AMB, seconded by PH and unanimously passed the group decided to pursue this project with Bettina as lead. She will connect in the short-term with Scott Bogle, Rockingham Planning Commission at the suggestion of Tim Roache.

Discussion moved to the focus and structure of this committee which is currently appointed for only 1 year as an ad-hoc committee of the Board of Selectmen. On a motion by AMB, seconded by JP and unanimously approved the group adopted the following tasks (with task leaders as noted, but NOT with a sub-committee structure):

- “1. Work with RPC and the Safe Routes to School program to improve walking and cycling in the area adjacent to the Stratham Memorial School (BK).
2. With the purpose of identifying future connectivity projects and informing the town’s master plan, this group will gather information from existing resources such as but not limited to: GIS maps (Planner’s office), traffic data (RPC) and community-member surveys on current usage & desired future projects (JP).
3. Determine walking/biking resources currently available in the town (beyond Stratham Hill Park) and identify those needing improvements, especially with regard to community awareness (SH).”

There being no further time to continue the meeting, on a motion made by AMB, seconded by JP and unanimously carried the meeting was adjourned at 10:22am. The next meeting time and place will be made public online and in 2 physical locations as required by statute.

Additional handouts provided to the Chair, retained in the record book and attached electronically include: “Road Names Approved by Stratham Selectmen as of 3/24/17” (TA), Summary of Town Center sidewalk project (PD) and Town of Stratham Social Media Policy & Guidelines Account Registration Forms approval (PD).

Minutes draft respectfully submitted by Andrea M Benson, Secretary.