

Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Ad-hoc Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 24th, 2018

In Attendance: Bettina Kersten (Committee Member, Co-chair), Andy Gilman (Committee Member, Co-chair), Stephanie Bergeron (Committee Member, Secretary), Melissa Gahr (Committee member, community), Pamela Hollasch (Committee member, community), Seth Hickey (Committee Member, Stratham Recreation Director), Tavis Austin (Town Planner), Paul Deschaine (Town Administrator)

(Numbering below follows the published agenda numbered lines.)

1. Call to order by Bettina Kersten 9:07am. Made motion to approve minutes from 7/27/18 by Melissa Gahr, seconded by Bettina Kersten. Committee unanimously accepted minutes from 7/27/18 as written.

Update on Subgroup – “Connectivity” PCAC, with Seth (Rec. Director), working to pinpoint one or 2 segments/corridors of trails to focus attention on, leading to connectivity of neighborhoods and between destinations in the town.

2. Update on Master Plan Steering Committee meeting from August (Pam)

- Master Plan consultants creating snapshots of what town looks like now (history/data - nothing yet so far in terms of how we want it to be). Pam as PCAC member trying to inject more nuanced language that will include PCAC goals (i.e.: current language states because of narrow roads bicycling is a challenge” - Pam suggested replacing “challenge” with “dangerous”, more to the point and encouraging action. Language accepted.
- Master Plan Committee will hold a public forum (date tbd), everyone welcome, open to public, in October.
- Melissa will go to next Master Plan meeting on 9/10/18 @ 6pm, Pam will invite them to PCAC’s next meeting.
- Bettina & Pam will get together for discussing a Vision Zero approach for Stratham (“Vision Zero starts with the ethical belief that everyone has the right to move safely in their communities, and that system designers and policy makers share the responsibility to ensure safe systems for travel”).
<https://visionzeronetWORK.org/about/what-is-vision-zero/>

3. Update on DOT bike signage proposal (Melissa)

- Met with Colin (DOT), came up with # of signs/rough cost/selectmen positive regarding plan.
- Melissa summarized meeting with Colin (DOT). He suggested meeting again before the next year for future projects (PCAC committee discussed timing and decided by September we should have our budget ready, and meeting with Colin should take place early October).
- PCAC can at that time suggest projects with Colin and discuss budget so dollars get allotted.
- Town Planner Tavis Austin has money available in his budget to pay for signs
- Melissa will submit article to Stratham Magazine that raises awareness about and explains the new bike signage (article needs to be submitted 2 months in

advance to Randy Bamberger).

- As an additional option, Colin suggested bicycle stencil on designated bike roads would be effective for bicycles sharing lanes with vehicles (PCAC discussed how that can be added to next budget).
- Seth recommended contacting Seacoast area bike routes – Seacoastbikes.org (advocacy group for pedestrian and bike lanes over new bridges, etc. – good group to reach out to for costs and measures, active for 21 years).
 - Melissa will look into it for the article. Info@seacoastbikes.org (Tavis is reaching out for contact info via email).

4. & 5. Review of Board of Selectmen meeting from 8/6/2018 & Safe Routes to School update – Bettina (topics wove in and out of each other)

- Board of Selectmen meeting – they were supportive of PCAC's work and relayed a positive impression.
- SRTS committee was granted extension through to October 2019
- SRTS meeting Thursday 8/30/18 at 10:30am in Library's community room
- SRTS communication can be a bit difficult, finding ways to work through it.

(Tavis/Town Planner arrived at 8:53 am)

- With Tavis' arrival, he discussed realities of 10-year plan with PCAC (2 - 6 million dollar projects generally are included).
- Stratham Hill Park and Sandy Point Rd. on demand crossing and at Market Basket desired by PCAC.
- Andy stated he would like PCAC to get on the 10-year plan with several crosswalks on 108/33, for example.
- Bike lanes for Squamscot Rd. have been on the plan for a long time, for example
- This is done at the state level (every town in state makes requests, and about 6 make it through annually).

Upcoming SRTS meetings:

- 8/27/18 3pm CMS
- 8/29/18 3pm SMS
- 8/30/18 10:30-12:00 in Community Room of Public Library
- 9/10 7am walking audit at CMS (for traffic flow/issues, etc)
- 9/14 2:30pm walking audit at SMS

Next PCAC meeting

- 9/28/18 8:30am

(Bettina left at 9:03am)

6. Community Outreach and Communication to the Public

- Paul/Town Administrator came in at 9:04am
- Discussed with PCAC the crosswalk that was repainted on Rt. 108.
- Committee decided to put pics of new crosswalk on PCAC Facebook page.
- Tavis asked if we saved emails from Survey Monkey survey (no, did not have access to them).
- Andy suggested beginning an email list together.
- Melissa suggested Stratham Selectmen that goes through the website, for PCAC

to use the same platforms, Andy suggested inviting the people on that list, to subscribe to PCAC list.

- Tavis suggested traffic SRTS through the PCAC page.
- Tavis suggested freedom of speech signs like “I like biking” with web address and similar items.

(Tavis left at 9:04 and returned at 9:11am)

- Discussed Selectmen email blast is once a month. Andy said one of the goals was to publish the results of the PCAC survey, maybe then we could ask them to visit PCAC website/Facebook page. We could put a subscription link on the PCAC website page.

(Pam left at 9:13am, lost quorum, general discussion follows regarding outreach and budget timelines)

- Thursday night bike races and pizza nights – set up there and bring coffee or water and PCAC signs/stickers.
- Set up a table at family fun day, 10/13/18.
- Discussed recruiting other volunteers to work these tables so it’s not all shouldered by PCAC members, ask folks when we do our first public tables, “would you be willing to work one of these events/tables?”
- Discussed Ocean State Job Lots possibly being a willing partner (Seth says they give tents, etc. for events he’s run). Seth gave Melissa contact info for them.
- Seth also has a stickers person
- Discussed a designated place to keep PCAC marketing materials - Melissa will now keep marketing materials in Rec Dept. closet at Town offices.
- Paul said October 1st is the deadline for budget submittal (Colin will have to have his in by then as well)
- Paul said another resource to connect to is South East Land Trust (SELT), go to website and subscribe to their email list, would be a good partnership for regional hiking/biking, they are working on the Barker property (and Dave’s? property) (get \$ through grants/donations/etc.).

Wrapped up informal portion of meeting @ 9:31am.