

## Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Committee Minutes of 01/09/18

In attendance:

Andrea Benson (committee member-community), Melissa Gahr (committee member-community), Pamela Hollasch (committee member-community), Bettina Kersten (committee member-community, arrived at 6:44pm).

Also, Scott Longwell, Jeff Davis, and Andy Gillman - public. Paul Deschaine - Town Administrator.

### *Overview of East Coast Greenway (MG)*

From Maine to NH along coastline and also Newfields to Manchester - Stratham in the middle - positioned to connect. Melissa plans to discuss with Jeff at Gus's bike shop in near future for more information.

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm by Melissa Gahr.

*Approval of minutes from 12/29/17-*

**AB motion to approve minutes- seconded by BK and unanimously approved.**

### *Discussion of PCAC publicity -*

1. Info outlet options to continue utilizing and/or pursue:

~social media (Facebook)

~Stratham Magazine

~agenda on town website

~Seacoast Online

~signs on trails at Stratham Hill Park

~paper fliers to demographic of walkers/runners/bikers on the roads

2. Town walks organized with assistance from Parks and Rec and Heritage Commission - for all community members to be introduced to walking loops in town with added historical significance and interest.

Discussion of mapping options for these walks - apps such as "map-my-run" and "Google Maps Pedometer." Also mention of Seth Hickey's knowledge base with recommendation from PD to work together with Parks & Rec as they have experience and resources to map trails.

Regarding a question of liability for abutters - none, if there is no payment or fee charged then user of trails assumes risk (per PD).

3. Suggestion of Community Roundtable discussions - regularly create opportunity to talk about biking/walking issues with citizens in an informal setting. Particularly relevant opportunity would be during the proposal phase of planning board projects, thereby working to integrate advocacy

ideas early in the process. Discussed learning from Whittaker Rd project (Sullivan subdivision), perhaps creating conversation among public and PCAC could be helpful.

*Topic of finances for PCAC -*

cost of making flyers, posters, etc. PD informed that PCAC can request the Town to appropriate funds for our use.

**BK motioned for the PCAC to request via PD the amount of \$500 from the Town of Stratham for incurred expenses. PH seconded and unanimously approved by the Committee.**

*Discussion of how to get Town & citizens involved in long-range planning -*

Suggestions:

- with every new subdivision reach out to neighborhood - how to turn it around & see good for all.
- hire professional to moderate these conversations amongst community members.
- request the planning board add a checklist item to their regulations to act on the PCAC mission.

**AB made motion to ask Tavis for help in creating a regulation for PCAC priorities to be part of the checklist for the planning board development of new subdivisions. BK seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

*Creation of a master trails map project -*

Discussion of local neighborhood off-road trails and links by JD. Further conversation led to consensus that by mapping with a property map the smaller trail loops in neighborhoods then the areas which could be connected could be more easily identified and targeted. Using software for mapping already used by Parks and Rec we could make this digital (see above discussion of mapping town walks). In addition, plan to procure a large, paper town map with property lines to write on at the next meeting with the help of Tavis Austin, Town Planner (Andrea).

*Standardization/clarification of terms*

-by defining terms the PCAC can be sure to use standard verbiage in communication with the town & citizenry in order to prevent misunderstandings.

We brainstormed the following list of terms we would like officially defined:

Sidewalks -

Path -

Corridor -

Multi-use Path -

Bike Lane -

Trail -

Shoulder -

Conveyance -

Maintained vs. Unmaintained -

Good faith -

Easement - (multiple types)

Open Space -

Right of Way -

Complete Street -

Crosswalks -

Crossing Point -

Pedestrian alerts -

Sidepath -

#### *York Master plan/bike lanes*

Update from MG: she learned that every time a road is paved their committee has input about how it is marked and every newly paved road has striping with ped/bike markings. At an earlier date she had spoken with Colin Lavery - he had suggested doing this as an experiment on Gifford Farm Road during its upcoming repaving. These objectives fall under the Highway Department and Board of Selectmen. MG will forward the details of the York plan to all present and to be posted on Facebook as well.

#### *Other comments -*

~Possibility of using neighborhood trails and networks more publicly (positives and negatives).

~Value in conducting real estate survey to investigate potential impact on home values if Stratham were to develop a connected trail system.

**On a motion by PH, seconded by AB and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.**

Minutes draft respectfully submitted by Pamela Hollasch, acting Secretary.