

PCAC Meeting Minutes of 11/6/2017 (occurred after the Safe Routes task force meeting)

Meeting called to order at 10:30am. Members in attendance included Bettina Kersten, Pamela Hollasch, Jameson Paine, and Seth Hickey.

Minutes from 10/27/17 unanimously approved as submitted. Motioned by Seth Hickey and seconded by Jameson Paine. There being a shortage of time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32am (motioned by Pamela, seconded by Bettina and unanimously agreed upon).

Safe Routes to Schools Task Force Meeting began at 9:03AM [note: no quorum for PCAC]

In attendance - Bettina Kersten, Scott Bogle, Hayley Hitchmoth, Tavis Austin, Jameson Paine, Thomas Fosher, Pamela Hollasch, Paul Deschaine, Colin Lavery

Scott Bogle reviewed details of grant application process as initially presented at meeting with John Corrigan on 10/27. It is fully funded by the NHDOT and works as a reimbursement program - the town of Stratham would appropriate the amount required as a warrant article and then would be reimbursed as program progressed. Scott Bogle expressed confidence that these funds would be awarded to the town of Stratham.

Scott Bogle summarized the applications for the Start Up Funding and Travel Plan. As of now, both SMS and CMS are included in general discussions but Scott Bogle is waiting to hear from David Sharples (town planner) in Exeter regarding their involvement. As for who would be the applicant, Scott Bogle recommended the town seeing as Stratham is already set up with a certified local public agency (being T. Austin).

Discussion about the the Start Up grant - such as supporting Bike to School Day with incentives or other programs and events similar to the Bike Rodeos hosted by Parks & Recreation this past August.

Details on Task Force - want a varied group with representation from public works, planning board, police, schools, parents, PTO, etc.

Thomas Fosher and Bettina Kersten reported on meeting with SMS physical education teacher Tiffany Locke and school nurse Elisabeth Lacasse about SRTS Program. They will be the coordinator of the SRTS subcommittee at SMS. Bettina Kersten reported that Melissa Gahr met with CMS principal Patty Wons, Alternative PE teacher Stephanie Frigon and teacher and Bike to School Day coordinator Sue Garneau. Mrs. Wons welcomed the initiative and will support it, but is unable to devote actual time to SRTS at this point. Mrs. Frigon and Mrs. Garneau will be the main contact for the SRTS program at CMS.

Scott Bogle asked Thomas Fosher to send him more information about the SMS Wellness Committee.

Seth Hickey arrived 9:26am [quorum for PCAC]

In regards to the Travel Plan, this would involve engineering firm to evaluate options. One consideration to speed up the progress, if the town could absorb the cost, RFQ (Request for Qualification) could be initiated soon rather than later which would jump-start the process. Tavis Austin suggested asking local engineering firms who may be more aware of the specific neighborhood problematic spots. Bettina Kersten suggested involving residents of the affected neighborhoods in this process as well. Scott Bogle brought up idea of a parent forum prior to engineering evaluation and/or to share parent survey results.

Other aspects of Travel Plan could involve something like the “pop up” complete street program (as done in Portsmouth, eg)

Discussion followed about S.W.O.T. - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats - in regards to biking and walking to/from school.

Strengths include Bike to School Day, Wellness Walk, SHP trails, programs through Seacoast Velokids, Police Department, Parks & Recreation.

Weaknesses include number of state roads, car volume on roads, speed limit, lack of driver awareness, lack of existing trails to/from CMS, lack of sidewalks at CMS, seasonality of trails

(Pamela Hollasch left meeting 9:50am - returned to meeting 9:52am)

(Seth Hickey left meeting 9:55am - returned 9:56am)

Opportunities include potential pavement striping on Gifford Farm Road to designate area to walk/cycle, chaperoned walkers from SHP to SMS, potential for CMS leadership group to address environmental concerns of idling cars, involvement and support from PCAC

Threats such as town planning adjustments, right of way designations, hesitant residents

Other Comments -

Bettina Kersten - identify ways to involve police department and also get more people onboard with these projects and initiatives

Paul Deschaine and Tavis Austin - Stratham needs better clarity in terminology so clear to all - what is a “sidewalk”, a trail, a path?

SMS - Stratham Memorial School

CMS - Cooperative Middle School

SRTS - Safe Routes To School

NHDOT - New Hampshire Department of Transportation

PCAC - Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Committee

Respectfully Submitted, Pamela Hollasch, Acting Secretary