

Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Ad-hoc Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 28th, 2018 - 8:30am

Municipal Center
10 Bunker Hill Ave.
Stratham, NH

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), Tavis Austin (Town Planner)

(Numbering below follows the published agenda numbered lines.)

AGENDA

Call to order by Bettina Kerston at 8:36 am. Motion to approve of 8/24/18 meeting minutes by Andy at 8:37am (Melissa and Pam seconded the motion to approval).

- 1. Update on Master Plan Steering Committee from September 2018 (Pam)**
 - a. Plan in motion to set a date to meet up with MPSC underway, PCAC will go to MPSC meeting.
- 2. Update on DOT bike signage proposal (Melissa)**
 - a. Wrote article for Stratham Magazine, explaining signage, determined sign cost, where to get them, where to put them, and organized info for Colin. If Tavis (Town Planner) doesn't secure the funding this year, he will add it to next year's budget – signs for following locations: Stratham Heights, Guinea Rd, Lovell Rd., Squampscott, Rd., Union Rd., Winnicutt Rd.
 - i. Road stencils (Colin suggested road stencils in addition to the signage to raise driver attention to potential bicyclists in road. Will be part of the 2019 PCAC budget under Colin)
 - b. Need the following contacts from Seth: Ocean State Job Lots, the "sticker" contact from Seth, and any others.
- 3. Safe Routes to School update (Bettina)**
 - a. SRTS meeting update from 8/30/18 in Wiggin Library Community Room went very well. Chief Scippa of PD, Representatives of SMS and CMS, Super Intendant of SAU 16 D. Ryan, Townplanner T. Austin, Director of Public Works C. Laverty, Town administrator P. Deschaine and parents offrom both schools and members fromof the PCAC were present. Engineers from TEC gave a short presentation of of their work

and the walking audits ahead. Scott Bogle from the Rockingham Planning Commission gave a brief review on work being done and guiding the group to the work ahead. It was very inspiring to hear different approaches, concerns and knowledge being shared in the discussion of Safe Routes to School. Reducing the car traffic by getting kids back on the buses, calming traffic with modern technology and investing into infrastructure that will protect walkers and bikers are just a few take away from our discussion.

- b. Walking audits of CMS & SMS update
 - i. CMS audit (attended by Lindsay Pope, Sue Garneau from CMS, Engineers from TEC, S. Bogle from RPC as well as Melissa and Bettina)
 - ii. Car traffic in the morning is heavy. Traffic at CMS, 200+cars. What are the reasons? Why are kids being driven to school? Length of bus ride? Safety?
 - iii. Maybe follow up with questionnaire – how can we improve on the traffic congestion and reduce traffic? It looks like there is enough room on Academic Drive and Guinea Road to assign bike/ped spaces with low cost adjustments, like striping, signage, stencils...TEC will work on it and prepare suggestions.
 - c. Guinea Rd is scheduled to be updated independently of SRTS in 2019. PCAC will discuss with Colin to incorporate SRTS improvements.
 - d. SMS walking audit Attendees: Vice principal K. Belanger, PE teacher T. Locke, Tim Herrington, Seth Hickey from Parks and Rec, PCAC, parent and S. Bogle from RPC.
 - e. Tec verified there is enough room to make low cost infrastructure changes to assign walker/ pedestrian spaces. Signs need to be adjusted on Gifford Farm and Lovell Rd's.
 - i. Grading/pitch of road might be a concern for bikers and walkers. Speed of cars is a safety concern.
 - ii. Gifford Farm is scheduled for update in 2020. We are looking at small cut outs of bike designs & pedestrian designs. Long term it needs to be a design that conforms with statewide designs of road planning and Complete Streets. As a whole needs to be submitted to town PCAC member Pam suggested coming up with maybe a nontechnical plan/vision, then it would be easier to generate a subsequent tech version (specifically roads heavily traveled are a target – at least come up with a vision for PCAC addressing pedestrian & cyclist master plan then move it forward from there).Melissa suggested putting consultant fee in budget. Andy suggested it would be helpful to have PCAC come up with a non-motorized transit vision as part of our overall mission.
 - f. Upcoming event Stratham walk to school day 10/12/18
4. **Update on community outreach and communication to public (Melissa, Andy, Bettina)**

- a. PCAC survey results (Bettina)
 - i. Highlights, most responders were over 40, not many under 30, which also highlights Stratham's lack of younger population in workforce/housing market; 30% have to drive somewhere safe to walk for recreation; over 30% don't bike in Stratham, 40% use trails at SHP; just 19% drive somewhere to bike, less than driving to walk – so biking might be perceived as safer option; 70% restrict biking or walking due to feeling unsafe – a lot of requests for infrastructure; sidewalks mentioned often; **66% said they would walk/bike more if traffic calming infrastructure was improved; 80% are in favor of adding traffic calming infrastructure; 86% asked for increased connectivity, but all supported each option on survey;** 24% concerned about the cost....PCAC will write up a report and publish/disseminate the results (Pam will make one to post at Library, and create a pdf link for town and facebook page, and get on Selectmen agenda to present results (1st and 3rd Mondays of month, Pam needs a week to create it, and Melissa will bring it to Selectmen meeting and get on agenda for whichever meeting coming up she can get on)...Bettina pointed out that responders to survey said education and enforcement are not enough, they want infrastructure.
- b. Trail map engagement (Pam, Seth) (Pam says can't do it by herself, Seth sent Rockingham Planning Commission a proposed path trail map – after that, Pam also found many pieces, private property, marshland, etc.) Tavis said Seth already sent GIS mapping info to RPC after doing the walkthrough. Andy asked Pam for copies, she sent to Melissa who is sending to rest of PCAC committee.
- c. Discuss events to engage public regarding committee work and information
 - i. Ideas for places to set up to engage various segments of Stratham population
 1. SHP Cyclocross series running 6 weeks starting 9/20 – how many times do we attend
 2. Family Fun Day @ SHP 10/13/18 (maybe not the best place, choose Walk to School Day instead on 10/12/18, set up where? Maybe have it on the school ground – Bettina will ask Kate Belanger) Melissa said update brochures, cross out meeting time, maybe change it, that is from 8-8:25am on 10/12/18 (Bettina said engineers have a parent forum coming up with a vote, could attend that as well)
 3. Friends of Wiggin Memorial Library table at Indoor Yard Sale 10/20/18 9am – 1pm (PCAC agree it is a good option)

4. Discuss promote/highlighting to public existing hiking/biking options in area
5. Future elections - have a table set up with info, map, email list sign-up
6. Melissa went to Pizza night and passed out PCAC flyers – she also suggested asking at these events if folks want to sign up for our email, if so, add them via front page of Stratham town website.

5. Discuss 2019 committee budget

- a. Nordic walking program \$1,500; invite someone to talk about Vision Zero; advertising/PCAC informational flyer update \$500

10/16 is public community forum for Master Plan

6. Public comment

Next PCAC meeting is 10/26/18

Andy motioned to adjourn at 9:45, Melissa seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.