

Pedestrian and Cyclist Advocacy Committee Minutes of 01/26/18

Called to order at 8:34 am by Melissa Gahr.

In attendance:

Andrea Benson (committee member-community) (left at 9:35am), Melissa Gahr (committee member-community) (left at 9:54am), Pamela Hollasch (committee member-community), Bettina Kersten (committee member-community). Jameson Paine (committee member-planning board), George Burns (public), Andy Gillman (public), Tavis Austin (Town Planner), Jen Antiokakis (committee member-community alternate) (arrived 8:57am), Paul Deschaine (Town Administrator).

1. On a motion by JP, seconded by AMB and unanimously approved, the minutes from 01/09/18 were accepted as drafted.

2. Further discussion of PCAC publicity:

- Seacoast Online article** should be published next week, interview about PCAC was given by Melissa Gahr, Chair.

- Possible follow up article warranted: today received **email regarding the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant** which implies grant application is moving forward and may be awarded to Stratham. **PD is verifying with Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC).**

- PH to write another article for **Stratham Magazine**.

- Local walks map and brochure about PCAC** suggested to be ready and available at town election 3/13 & town meeting on 3/16. Andrea to speak with Town Moderator & Board of Selectmen. Bettina/Seth and Pamela/Andy to create brochure/map.

- Discussion regarding **outreach and education** ensued. Reached consensus that context/info **meetings** (to include brochure & local walks map) should be arranged with the following groups before April/May (With help from Seth, P&R Dept.):

 - ~Bone Builders

 - ~76ers

 - ~Velokids

- Resident survey** proposed to be distributed in April/May via schools, Selectman e-letter, library & municipal center as well as the groups mentioned above (following an initial contact/info meeting). Discussed using resources to devise effective survey such as, Parks & Rec. Dept., examples from Brookline, NH & York, ME, SRTS sample surveys, a professional survey center and consultants hired to re-write Stratham's master plan. The master plan re-write process is expected to take 1 year (6 months logistics to begin process, 6 months of collecting info & writing.

3. Continued discussion on creation of a master trails map:

- Tavis helped create **large paper map** to use as final version-Tavis to send **e-copy** to all members to help with **investigating and documenting existing trails outside Stratham Hill Park**

- discussed keeping the larger context in mind when looking at Stratham (see NH state biking dept/rail trail in Manchester/East Coast Greenway/towns of Durham, Dover, Newmarket, for example).

- current map good **for starting point (large-scale perspective)**, need to bring it in closer to see the lay of the land & what the ground actually looks like in order to create a useful map for advocacy. At that point can bring it to the planning board for changing regulations & adding requirements for developers to address larger context and implications of any proposed future

developments. The following step would be to move forward with asking for easement permissions and building or renovating specific trails.

4. Update on incorporating PCAC efforts into regulations and the planning board proposal review checklist:

- Discussion about how a PCAC Master Plan could direct, inform, and provide perspective in advocacy endeavors as well as zoning and regulatory amendments.

TA, PH & Colin Laverty (Highway Dept) have begun these conversations and will have more updates at future meeting dates. Per PD, depending on how the Stratham Master Plan is re-written, it is all possible all town regulations may need to be revisited at which time these changes could be discussed.

5. Update on Town Budget Meeting-MG, on behalf of the **PCAC, asked for \$400 in the 2018 budget.** Received Board of Selectman OK—committee can work with Town Office to handle expenses as they arise.

6. Update on SRTS project:

- RFQ & grant application (see above): working with Scott Bogle at RPC to understand where the application is in the process.

- CMS task force** is meeting 1/31: to discuss how to separate Stratham and Exeter students for the survey & travel plan tallies, April-Earth Day, working with CMS, First Student (bus company) and maybe using bus routes, etc. to understand student concentrations on map.

- SMS task force:** parent survey & in-class tally arrangements are being made, walking school bus from SHP (Bettina & Seth starting in Mar/Apr), Walk/Bike alliance coming to school in April, community coalition/conversation within 2 miles of SMS to be arranged, Bike-to-School Day in May & Summer rodeos planned with Parks & Rec/Velokids/Police Dept.

7. On-Road Accessibility for Pedestrians and Cyclists (limited discussion as Hwy Dept not represented at this meeting):

- Portsmouth Ave and Route 33** (finding safe passage across and along)--depends on location, some areas of these roads are wider than others and already have a shoulder in place. Any changes would **require NHDOT approval and the presence of a PCAC "Master Plan" would aid** in achieving this objective.

- Bunker Hill/Stratham Heights/Winnicut Rd (state roads that observe heavy through traffic with limited shoulder for non-motorized transport)**-There is a **possibility of stenciled bike/sharrows on the narrower state and town roads** which would indicate bikers may be present. Again **having a PCAC Master Plan for routes would be of benefit to this effort** for added clarity and a larger vision.

- Discussed a road cross-section diagram which had been prepared by Colin Laverty and had been presented to the Planning Board with further evaluation expected after the March election. This could provide a model for building and/or renovating roads in the future so as to include bike lane shoulders.

- Discussed Exeter as a model but their situation is such that the town of Exeter maintains the section of state road through their "metropolitan corridor" which is different from Stratham's situation.

8. Public comment:

AG asked about the charter from the Selectmen and how it was worded. He will look into minutes to read that specific language.

All other topics were tabled by the Chair until a future meeting.

On a motion by JP, seconded by BK and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned as of 10:00am.

Minutes draft respectfully submitted by Andrea M Benson, Secretary with kind assistance from Pamela Hollasch, Acting Secretary.