

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Via Zoom

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Doug Carson, Jonathan Dwyer, John Mendelson, Margeret Olson, Ginger Reiner, Bob Wolf

OTHERS: Chris Murphy

DISCUSSION & Updates

Select Board Presentation Recap – Bob and Ginger presented the Pedestrian and Bike Plan, effectively distilling 70 pages and years of work and thinking into 10 minutes. Feedback from the board included

- Communicate the budget we are seeking and sources for funding early in any presentation, because some of the audience will only be looking for that information. The strategy to go primarily for grants will put people at ease and enable them to listen and engage.
- Try to be more quantitative, perhaps with data like number of households served by a change.
- The plan's content should be resequenced to match the sequence in the presentation used with Select Board. Following that, the committee will need to address any gaps. Clarification of prioritization is one gap.
- As an aside, we should consider clarifying how we are prioritizing — including the criteria for deciding priorities.
 - # of households, condition of current infrastructure, contribution to vision, crash data, direct neighborhood interest, etc. Jonathan agreed to draft a definition of criteria for discussion at the next meeting.
 - The plan's vision for addressing systemic connectivity issues is key, and grants often require data to demonstrate the need. We need to be careful not to
- Which boards should also see a presentation of the plan: Planning Board (Ginger), Conservation Commission (underway), Finance (Ginger), Roadway & Traffic Committee (Bob), Parks & Recreation Committee (Doug), School Committee (Ginger). After, in the fall, we aim to have 3-4 open houses with general overview and a focus on one or more areas of town. State of The Town might be Q&A, expecting audience would have already attended a presentation or watched a recording.

Coordination with Minute Man National Historical Park regarding 250th Activities — Jonathan reported he and Ray Shepard represent Lincoln on the regional Battle Road 250 Committee, with a mission to facilitate how our town will celebrate America's 250th. We will be back to this committee for ideas.

Community Outreach - Bob agreed to create a usable email list for the committee's outreach, in the style of a newsletter and not a discussion forum. Ginger suggested we send a first newsletter and offer an option to unsubscribe. Topics should be Lincoln-focused, with big news from region. Examples: magnolia path progress, what meetings we will be presenting at soon, completion of Bruce Freeman in Concord and Sudbury. Margaret volunteered to write the newsletter.

Complete Streets grant application — proposal submitted to finish connections of magnolia path to Codman Rd roadside path and back to Codman Farm parking lot near new driveway.

Trail from Mill St to Bedford Rd — Bob and Margaret walked the area with Conservation Dept Michelle Gryzenda and Stacy Carter and abutter Bob Domnitz. There was mutual interest in pursuing analysis of this trail concept. When landfill solar project moves along, we should re-engage with Conservation.

Trail from Sandy Pond Rd to Mary's Way — Walked with David L, Paula Jennifer, Bob, Ginger, Margaret, two staff from Concord Conservation, Phil Posner volunteer on Concord, 2 MassDOT. Walked from Mary's Way at the overpass. Easement, ADA slope. Quickest remedy is to make 2-lane exit to be 1-lane and create a 2-way bike / pet path. Everyone supported the idea. Concord needs to file the request. Could be paid for by MassDOT funds for maintenance.

Rt 126 railroad bridge replacement — Ginger and Margaret met with MassDOT to discuss 25% design relative to bike and pedestrian spaces along the structure. Bridge width will not change. Travel lanes will be 10.5'. Discussed possibilities for wider bike and pedestrian paths, and various possible configurations, e.g. one wide bike-ped travel path, one wide path and one narrow path. MassDOT explained constraints of minimum path widths and how barriers and fencing not only consume bridge space (8.3' width is actually 5.5' after barriers) but also make paths seem narrower to users (naturally keep distance from fence). Sharrows in travel lane were dismissed due to 40mph speed MassDOT explained how current design maximizes width of usable space for recreational cyclists and peds with a single path with barriers along both sides of trail. Road bikers are already riding the travel lane over the bridge, so project changes prioritize recreational cyclists and pedestrians.

Walk Bike Roll to School Week — big success this year, with more participants than last year and great weather. We saw more bikes in bike racks every day than prior years and ran out of bracelets. Saw more bikes in racks in weeks after the event too. WBZ radio covered the event!

Learned that we need to start planning earlier because we lost opportunity to engage students who must take the bus (Lincoln and Boston) and enable them to participate in some way. Students who couldn't participate complained that they felt left out.

Farrar Rd Advisory Shoulders — Bob and Doug observed Farrar Rd last month, and reported that cyclists and walkers were very enthusiastic about the change, feeling safer to walk the shoulder and stand off the road to let cars go by. Toward the end of the pilot period, we'll collect more extensive feedback from residents and users, and we still need to analyze the before-after game camera photos.

Conservation Commission Trail Use Forum on May 18 will be attended by Bob, John, Ginger and Margaret.

Action Items

- Margaret made a motion to approve minutes for the April 14, 2022 meeting. Bob seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous, 6-0 in favor.

Next meeting: Tuesday 5/31

Bob made a motion to adjourn. John seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous, 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:16pm

Submitted by Jonathan Dwyer