

Bikeway Committee Minutes
March 10, 2021

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The Bikeway Committee Meeting, a remote Zoom conference, was called to order at 7 PM, Lois Callahan (chair) called the roll. Members present were Lois Callahan (Chair), Paul Foley, Jim Anderson and Mat Coes. Since 4/5 members were present a quorum was declared. Also in attendance was Bob Espindola, Selectman. Lina Torres Gonzalez and Bill Scully of Green Engineering were also in attendance. Lois read the authorization and guidelines for remote meetings and the business of the committee commenced.

The first Agenda item was approval of the minutes from the previous meeting on February 17, 2021. After a short delay the minutes were approved.

Updates and Discussion.

Complete Streets. Since the Phase I was approved, attention focused on the prioritization of projects from a list provided by the Green group. They reported that their preliminary prioritization was based on criteria of livability and connectivity, as suggested last meeting. Discussion focused on the highest scoring projects and went into detail on each. Several projects drew the most attention, including the Main/Middle street proposal and the Alden Road projects (three phases in all). The Long Road projects (two phases) and the Alden Road projects together address ADA concerns, which may be important to their approval though these would be extended in time, with more analysis needed especially for Long Road. Paul reminded the Committee that the projects discussed can be reordered at a later time. Although the listed projects were devised to most likely appeal to the DOT, Bill stated that there have been new hires at DOT, with unknown views. The Mill Road crossing at Rt 6 was brought up as a priority because, despite Rt6 being a state road, the intersection should not pose problems in construction. The prioritization list will get another viewing at the Complete Streets meeting March 11. There may be some merit in not trying to meet the May 1 deadline, if further analysis and input would be beneficial. The October 1 deadline would not be a real problem if required.

The Pump Track paving project was brought up, since the group proposing the work is seeking endorsements. They will be doing some fund raising and will reach out to us. Mat strongly endorsed this effort.

Social Media Accounts. There are two social media accounts that will need oversight. Mat reported that John Sullivan posts there as liaison. John can provide photo content and also organizes group rides. Paul will contact John for his interest in the social media accounts.

The bike path signage subcommittee (Jim and Paul) will finalize recommendations when the weather permits.

Mat Coes Exit Report. As previously announced, this meeting is Mat's last one before resigning from the committee. He will provide documents he's collected on outside sources of information, flyers regarding the committee, and his notes on committee activity. His advice to the committee is not to bog down in nitty gritty, since that was a problem previously, and discourages participation. In order to attract committee members there should always be projects "on deck" that invite participation. In person events are good publicity, and there is evidently a "swag bin" of giveaways. He urged the committee to stay abreast of DOT projects that need input from the committee; he will email a list of organizers that can be helpful. He will continue to monitor the two websites mentioned previously, since they are sources of emails that the committee should look at.

Committee members thanked Mat for his contributions over the years, and all hoped he would stay in touch!

The next meeting will be April 28.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted,
Jim Anderson