



# Fairhaven

Massachusetts

## Fairhaven Bikeway Committee

Town Hall • 40 Center Street • Fairhaven, MA 02719

Fairhaven Bike Way Committee Meeting Minutes — 08/31/2023

The Fairhaven Bikeway Committee meeting met via remote platform (ZOOM) and was called to order by Chair Amy Rodrick at 6:31 pm.

### 1) Quorum & Attendance

Quorum: Yes

In attendance: Amy Roderick, Tim Garcia, Bob Espindola, Will Gardner, Chip Hawthorne, Vinny Furtado

### 2) Updates/Discussion

#### a) Committee Charge - Selectboard Presentation/Update

Will discussed his selectboard presentation and how it was received for updating our charge pertaining to expanding our direction. The selectboard had stopped sort of a full approval because of language concerns, urging that our mandate be made clear. Bob further explained how the Town Administrator would like clarity in specific language as to an advisory committee. Will plans to meet with the Town Planner about our advisory language. He will not need to present in front of the selectboard again, rather they will make their decision on the next selectboard meeting.

#### b) Bristol, RI Bike Path Signage

Bob discussed particular rules about walkers facing bikers in the same lanes to increase overall safety. Pointing out how this works well on other bike paths such as East Bay Bike Path and truly mitigates hazards. If considered on Fairhaven Bike Path then it would require education and signage. Mattapoisett has similar signage for example that appears successful. For further examples Bob shared the website *smartoutdoorinc.com*. This is a public safety asset and commercial ads may help fund this as a project here in Fairhaven, by way of using QR codes on signs. Chip offered that this may have an unnatural feel and that Massachusetts promotes all walkers and/or riders to do so on the right. Will mentioned most people tend to stay to the right as they are slower traffic and anyone traveling faster tends to pass on the left.

#### c) Safe Routes to School Update

Vinne, Superintendent of DPW, communicated how Josh and he interviewed 3 firms for the appraisal of the bikeway project on Sconticut Neck Road and had made their selection. This appraisal took about a month, pertaining to the temporary easements from Timothy Street to Wood elementary school. Based on property collectively around \$75,000 with each homeowner finding a range between \$2000-\$5000 for the

inconvenience they will be subjected to. The project itself will go out for bid in February 2024, projecting a \$1.5 million total, hopefully breaking ground in April '24. The permanent easements will be the poles needing to be moved out of the sidewalk for full access, but no one will lose out on property.

d) Website Updates & Maintenance

Amy brought forth how updating the town Bikeway Committee website is beneficial for anyone looking for accurate and up to date information. Noticing how there seems to be 2 separate sites and this might bring confusion to the public. Bob explained that the reason for the second website was so Bikeway Committee members would be able to post updates quicker and respond to any public questions without delay. The second website is not a town website, it is simply a Facebook page. The town does not have Facebook pages, so this may be an option for more direct communication to the public about things such as the Bike Bus sign ups, etc. Amy described she has done nothing on the second Facebook page and that it might make sense to stick with just the town site. If we are narrowing our focus with specific language then only the town website may be best. Amy will create an inventory of web sites that the Bikeway Committee has out there for the next meeting.

e) Joys & Concerns

Will mentioned the repaving of the bike path and some of the stop signs are confusing and not everyone stops because they may not make sense. Reconsider the flow of traffic. Also that the Bike Bus will begin a week from tomorrow, will depart for Wood School from the Atlas Tac section of the bike path. Possibly looking for some sort of GIS mapping of bike riders to see where kids are biking throughout town to get to school. Bob spoke about how the Sconticut neck eastside crossing pole should be relocated on the other side. And, that the crossing at the East Fairhaven School across Route 6 should be the next project.

Motion to adjourn by Amy.

Second by Tim

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm