

## **Paths Committee Meeting Notes August 1, 2016**

**Members attending:** Marc Gamble, Rocco Antinozzi, Wendy Saville, Susan Dunning, Kevin Boehmke

**Staff attending:** Dean Pierce

**Public/others:** Michael Ashooh, Josh Dein (arrived mid meeting)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marc Gamble at 7:04 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** Rocco moved that the minutes for the June meeting be approved. Kevin seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was modified to include discussion of additional items, time permitting (Local Motion Trailer, Planning Commission discussion of bylaw changes, Survey of Yacht Haven Neighborhood).

**July 26 Selectboard Meeting:** Marc reported on the recent Selectboard meeting. A major topic of discussion at the meeting is proposed amendments to the Town Plan (specifically, addition of new bike-ped maps). It isn't clear what the Board's next steps will be. Marc hopes each controversial item shown on the maps can be discussed fully and have its "day in court". Michael offered the view only one "sticking point" (path) remains. Rocco opined that the Selectboard wants to adopt some version of the new maps soon; what isn't clear is which version has support. It appears the Selectboard will resume discussion on August 9 and establish a timetable for discussion and possible action at subsequent meetings. Kevin expressed frustration that momentum building in support of the new maps, evident earlier, has been lost. Marc identified 'paths on private property' as a key factor in the recent public debate about the maps. Rocco volunteered that one such path (on the Shelburne Museum property) had received an endorsement from the previous Director of the Museum. Dean clarified that the route of the path across the Museum property shown on the new map differs from the route shown on earlier generations of the path map. Rocco noted that, as he has explained to the Planning Commission, the maps created by the Committee are intended to illustrate the Town's vision at a "systems level" and not on a property by property basis. Michael asked what the Committee hopes or plans to do at the next meeting of the Selectboard, adding it is his intent to advocate for all the projects shown of the version of the maps warned for public hearing. Anticipating the next agenda item, Wendy interjected that she is struck people could object to a map proposing to improve paths located on town-owned land.

**Shelburne Heights-Boulder Hill Connector 1:** Michael reported on his efforts to gauge support for the so-called Shelburne Heights-Boulder Hill connector. A clear majority of the households he has surveyed have indicated support via a petition he is circulating. Michael is hopeful the question of whether the connector is included on the maps will be settled by August 23<sup>rd</sup> (when he expects the discussion to take place). Marc suggested that whenever the issue is discussed Michael be prepared to address concerns about possible environmental impacts of paths. Michael responded that he has assembled materials on that topic and will be prepared to

address such concerns. Conversation then turned (briefly) to a series of related issues, including the status of the path located along Hawley Road, public awareness of the plans to extend the path north, and the opinions of the Farrell family regarding a future path in the area.

**Upcoming Selectboard discussion (or July 26 Selectboard Meeting, Part 2):** Marc indicated that he would away on August 9<sup>th</sup> and thus could not personally share the committee's views regarding the maps or the Shelburne Heights-Boulder Hill connector. Michael then asked 'what is the sense of the committee?' regarding these issues. Josh noted that he too would find it helpful to hear from members of the Committee. At Rocco's request, members of the Committee then shared their individual views. Wendy explained she would like to see all items included on the version of the map approved by Planning Commission retained; she added that she would like to see locations highlighted in some way when proposed improvements would be located on private property. Susan concurred with Wendy, adding that highlighting the sections on private property could help get the maps approved. Kevin stated he too wants all the items included on the version of the map approved by Planning Commission retained; in short he wants the maps approved as is. Marc and later Rocco concurred with Kevin. After further discussion Wendy modified her view regarding the need to highlight portions located on private property. After additional discussion, Kevin moved that the Committee recommend to the Selectboard that the Selectboard vote on and approve the version of the maps approved by Planning Commission at the conclusion of their final public hearing. Rocco seconded. Upon a question raised by Dean, Kevin clarified that included in his motion is the directive "and further that recommendation be emailed by Rocco to Selectboard members." This was agreeable to Rocco. After brief discussion the motion was then approved unanimously.

**Bay Road underpass:** Marc indicated that in the not-too-distant future the Selectboard will be deciding on whether to make the changes included in the Pilot project permanent. Susan took the opportunity to report on the results of her survey of households in the Yacht Haven Neighborhood (14 or 26 responses to date), the majority of whom strongly agree or agree the 2 stop configuration should be retained. Members briefly discussed the safety benefits of the changes, the frequency of queuing, and the possibility conditions will change somewhat when school resumes.

**Southern Gateway: discussion deferred**

**Election of Officers in October/reorganization:** Marc reported that Dean had encouraged him to address this topic in the Spring. But the numerous other issues competing for the group's attention had resulted in a delay. Marc is suggesting that the election of Chair/vice Chair take place in October because he will be away in September. Marc explained that he is willing to step aside for someone else; he also is willing to continue to serve as Chair. Rocco suggested that as part of the reorganization the group might want to reflect on the past year and briefly discuss questions such as 'What went well?' and 'What didn't?'

**September meeting:** Several possible dates for the September meeting were discussed, owing to Marc's expected absence, the timing of Selectboard meetings, and the like. Marc indicated that he would send out an email to help nail down the selection of a date.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.