

Paths Committee Meeting Notes
September 12, 2016

Members attending: Wendy Saville, Chris Trapeni, Susan Dunning, Joplin James, Rocco Antinozzi

Staff attending: Dean Pierce

Public: Don Russell

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Rocco at 7:07 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Wendy moved that the minutes for the August meeting be approved. Rocco seconded. The minutes were approved.

Approval of Agenda:

Joplin moves to approve agenda. Agenda approved

Introductions:

Don Russell from 61 Woodbine attended the meeting. He came because he saw the map with the proposed trail from Spear St to Woodbine. This path would border his property. He is entirely opposed to this path.

RR Underpass:

Prior to starting this study, the CCRPC prepared an implementation plan. A new traffic recorder will be installed around September 15. This will produce a week of counts and they will remove the recorder around September 23. On October 3 the online comments will be summarized by Sai Sarepelli of the CCRPC. He will also detail count and queue info that has been collected. This will lead to a report by October 14. That report could be the basis for some Selectboard action. If Sai recommends that this traffic pattern change is to be permanent, then the Selectboard will make an amendment. This new amendment would require 3 town meeting warning. If Sai recommends that the change should be discontinued, then there won't be a Selectboard action and the underpass would revert to the old traffic pattern. Chris asked if Sai's recommendation will be the only factor in the Selectboard decision. Dean said most likely, they will follow the recommendation, but they will take input from our committee. Susan asked how the report will be released. It will be electronic to Joe Colangelo. Dean said to look for this report on the town's website on Oct 14. It will get forwarded to our committee. Kevin asked about the current infrastructure in the road. Dean said it depends on his recommendation on whether its replaced with something more permanent or not. Marc said that the plan was to remove them for plowing season. Marc was wondering when the first Selectboard warning would occur. Some timing issue with the report and meeting times. Susan asked if we should send our opinion to Sai before he writes his report. Rocco likes this idea. Susan would write it and share it with us. Susan should send it to Ann and Joe who would forward it to Sai.

Chris asked about potential Railroad bridge replacement. Joe and the Selectboard have been looking into this. VAOT says it would be partially federal funds. It is a state railroad bridge over town highway so it makes it a bit complicated. Any widening of drainage would be town funded, widening of bridge would be federally funded.

Southern Gateway:

Wendy talked about the charrette that occurred about a month ago. Lucy Gibson from Dubois and King presented a plan for this gateway. The goal is to make arriving in Shelburne look more inviting and planned. An additional goal is to allow workers to Vermont Teddy Bear to use public transportation safely. Dean says that the bus turns at VTB some times during the day, but other times it turns at Falls Rd. When it turns at Falls Rd, people end up walking from Falls Rd to VTB along Rt7. Wendy mentioned that a crosswalk from Fiddlehead to the Vineyard would be beneficial. The current plan has a path that is on VTB land (who is entirely behind this path on their land) and Shelburne Green land (not 100% behind it). The engineers are still working on final alignment of where path would go. Rocco mentioned a community wifi at this location also. Wendy says that a community info station would make sense here. Marc mentioned the Northern gateway, both are important. Joe got the money for this Southern Gateway study from RPC. Rocco said that we are an advisory committee. The Selectboard can move on their own without our input as they did in this case. Susan asked if funding would come from VTB or Shelburne Green. Dean said not right now. Police say that Bostwick and Rt7 is a more dangerous intersection - they have seen an increase of rear end accidents. Wendy asked if there was any pedestrian lighting. There is no lighting there. Kevin asked if this project was in CIP. Dean said that it is not. Rocco regrets that we pushed on other projects (Irish Hill) instead of this one - maybe we could have got funding. Send your thoughts to Joe and Lucy.

Marc Gamble arrived at 7:20

Town Map:

Marc talked about the town map and how the process has worked. Our committee didn't communicate this map well. Marc didn't want to lose Mike Ashooh's Shelburne Heights work due to this map and has decided to pull the map from Selectboard vote. His plan is to take back the map and get a up/down vote on the Shelburne Heights path. The Selectboard had made some requests to Mike Ashooh about this path and he has completed those requests. He will present his response to the Selectboard for a vote on September 27. Gary wants our map to pass with this Selectboard. Selectboard wants us to have 3 public meetings before we present it to Planning Commission. There are two purposes for the map: 1 - it's a vision for town - 2: by including it on the map, then we have a better chance of getting funding. Wendy asked about how this process should work. Rocco said that the map is a representation of the town plan. That vision stands. Chris said that he has two conflicting thoughts about listing paths on our map, we shouldn't remove any trails that existed on our previously approved map from 2011 and we shouldn't add trails that are on private land. The trail to the beach through Shelburne Museum is on the original map, but is also private land. Rocco said that we had previous verbal

approval from Jost (previous director). We don't have any approval from the current director. Marc asked how we approach this process of updating the map. Each trail should get these questions - is it worth it and is it worth the fight? Pick paths selectively by communicating with all parties. Marc would like to start this even before next meeting. Joplin asked how we are going to present this to Selectboard tomorrow. Marc will try to simplify that we are "taking the map back". He will simply approach the Selectboard and say that we are removing the map and will be updating it in the future. Don said that he and his neighbor John don't want a path through his property. Marc said that this map will not be presented to Selectboard. Rocco gave some background. This a conceptual plan - the town plan wants connectivity. This trail isn't an engineering drawing, but simply an high level view of where a path could go. Any construction of a trail or path would still need Selectboard support and funding. This map isn't written in stone, nobody is going to start digging tomorrow. Only the Selectboard can make final decisions about trails and funding. No trail can be built unless the landowners agree. Don would rather not see a trail on his property on the map. He would have told us this earlier if he knew about it. Wendy asked if he disagrees with connectivity or just his land. He agrees that connectivity is good, but not on his property. It is a privacy issue.

Dean showed a timeline of how we could have 3 public meetings and have the Selectboard vote before March 2017. Marc asked about timing of public meeting 1. Could we do it by November? Wendy asked what first public meeting would be - would we open the floor for the public to ask for paths? Marc - No. We would present a modified map and ask for input about paths that we have included. Dean could produce a list of paths that are on private property. Rocco asked how many of our existing paths are on private land? Maybe 4 or 5? Pam's map was imprecise, some maps show as being on private land, but in reality are in the town ROW. Rocco said that we as a committee need to discuss those 4 or 5 paths that are on private land. Marc said each of those - "what's it value, is it worth fighting for". Joplin asked why there is a deadline. Marc said that Gary would like to see the map passed with this Selectboard. There may be 2 new members next March and he believes that we have the votes with this current board. Joplin asked about how this map is a "100 year plan" and is hypothetical. Why does the Selectboard need to vote on it? Marc thinks we could easily pass our map with 16 paths (all of the paths on public land). For some background, 1991 was the first time the Webster Rd path appeared on a map. It takes time to get traction and then money for a trail. Farmstead asked that the path get pulled onto their land instead of away from it. A path will never get built if it's not on a map. Most of our funding comes from grants and most grants ask if this trail is on the town map or plan. Rocco mentioned that the town plan mention goals like connectivity and we should have a map that supports those goals. Marc wants to get a study group to select paths that stay or go off the map. Susan talked about public vs private property paths. There is no contest about private, we shouldn't include them unless we have permission. Marc mentioned the Longmeadow path, it has been studied several times and is on private land. Kevin asked if the Planning Commission wants this to be visionary, we need to include all of our paths. Wendy said maybe we have multiple maps - could be built map and another visionary map. Rocco said that 2007 map is in the town plan.

A study group of our committee will meet on September 26 to discuss how to update the map.

Shelburne Heights Connector:

This will be an up/down vote with Selectboard on Tuesday September 13. Gary talked with Mike Ashooh and Mike Regan and believes that the connector path will now be approved. Rocco thinks that the map will still get pushed back. The Selectboard never accepted the map from last month when 3 paths were pulled. Rocco saw the compromise last month and thinks that those opposed to the path will still try to pull the map. The Selectboard vote for the Shelburne Heights connector will be on September 27. It is expected to get approved.

Joplin asked if we should have a presence tomorrow for this Selectboard vote. Marc doesn't think so. Rocco thinks it still important to show, but it will be quick - maybe a quick vote to pull map.

Oct VTrans grant

Marc isn't pushing it, we have other things to work on.

Paths from outside committee

There are several bike/ped discussions in town that started from outside our committee: Falls Rd and Marsett traffic calming. This started with some neighbors on FPF and Local Motion

Bay Rd improvements are being pushed by John Kerr

Southern Gateway is getting pushed by Kate Lalley.

Marc feels like this is a nice problem. It shows that bike/ped infrastructure is on everyone's mind. Why aren't we involved in these? There is no problem with other groups working on these issues. The only conflict would be if we all are trying to compete for the same grants. Marc asked if we could have "reps". Wendy will do it. She will stay in contact so that we know what is going on with these projects. Rocco thinks the southern gateway is in its infancy and nothing will happen soon.

Elections:

Paths committee elections will be next month in October. Marc won't fight to stay chair so please nominate yourself if you are interested. Anybody want to do it? His guidance is to lay low, we have taken up lots of Selectboard time. They are supportive of map.

Winter Process?

Could we meet sometime this winter and talk about our process? The Natural Resources committee has done a retreat to talk about big picture items.

Oct meeting:

Oct 24 works for most everyone and will be our next meeting.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00.

THE WRITTEN MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING. MOTIONS ARE AS STATED BY THE MOTION MAKER. MINUTES SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY THE SHELBURNE BIKE AND PED PATHS COMMITTEE. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.