

Paths Committee Meeting Notes December 12, 2016

Members attending: Wendy Saville, Chris Trapeni, Kevin Boehmke, Marc Gamble, Joplin James, Susan Dunning

Staff attending: Dean Pierce

Public: Chris Oullette

Executive Summary:

The committee talked about cyclist safety and how we can advocate for it. The Town budget process is beginning and our committee will present to the Selectboard about our wants and needs. We discussed the work of the Village Safety Group and possible improvements to Irish Hill Rd over the Laplatte River. Kevin developed an agenda for a planning retreat that we will do in January. The next meeting is January 16 and is from 6-9pm.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by at 7:04 pm.

November meeting notes were approved.

Laws Protecting Bikers

Chris Oullette is an avid cyclist living in Shelburne for the last 10 years. He is focused on the safety aspect and wanted to see what our committee does to promote safe cycling and driving in Shelburne. He knows Kevin Bessette from GMBC and is aware of the advocacy that they do. The passing law isn't specific about passing distance. It did pass House but not Senate. He sees a lot of close calls. His most import rule is to respect the drivers. He says it is about driver education. Marc doesn't think a law would help much, it needs enforcement. Some police will give cyclists tickets for impeding. The current law is that we can ride two abreast as long as we aren't impeding. Chris Trapeni brought up the FPF posting a few years ago when people spoke out against cyclists. 27 states have a passing law and VT does not. H876 is the Transportation bill that includes the safe passing wording. H876 changed from an exact passing distance to a \$100,000 share the road education plan. Joplin asked if other towns have signs showing cyclist traffic rules to see how those share the road signs could help. Susan said that we should post to FPF now about share the road rules and regulations. Maybe closer to spring, but just get the word out early. She also thinks CVU should have education about this in their driving program. Our mission does include both education and paths development. Chris Trapeni asked if calling the club when we see their riders doing something brazen could help. It may be helpful - some kits are easy to recognize like 1K2GO, GMBC and UVM. Jim McCullough has proposed the law in the past - why did it fail in the Senate? Jon Kaplan at CCRPC/VTrans will know also.

Town Budget Meeting

There is a December 14 Selectboard meeting to talk about the Town budget. Marc is going to spend the Paths Committee time pitching the gravel path between Bay Rd lot and State Fishing access. He will also stay for the Villiage Citizen committee time to hear what they have to say.

Kevin wants to get some clarity on what the Selectboard needs for matching grants since we will be applying in the future. We need the price of course, but what else? Population density, loudest voice, what factors influence the decision to pursue a grant? What keys them to decide to spend the money? What project make sense in their minds? Dean says this makes sense to avoid having to scramble. Could they pigeon hole some funds for any future requests? Similar to how there is a paving fund. Paul Goodrich doesn't know what he is going to pave, but he knows he needs the money. We know that we will be applying for future sidewalk/path grants. We should really use this Selectboard audience to ask about this potential future funding. We won't get this added to the budget, but we need to ask now to get them considering it for next year.

Pedestrian Safety Group

Wendy spoke with Jane Zenaty - a member of the Village Safety Group. They are interested in Village Core pedestrian safety. They approached Joe Colangelo and he asked them to talk to our committee. She did come, but didn't feel like our mission overlapped with theirs so they are now working on their own. Their focus is pedestrian safety, traffic calming, and roundabouts. The Village Safety Group wants another crosswalk near Brad's Computer. There also may be a new crosswalk at the RJ Fisher development across from the Post Office. This group is latching on to several ideas that were written in the 2006 plan. Most members of this group live in the area.

Falls Rd discussion with Local Motion

Jason Van Driesche of Local Motion talked with the Village Safety Group and talked about the Falls Rd bridge. We wants to have a website where residents can post comments similar to what was created for the Shelburne Heights connector. This proposal has a 10' car lane. That may not be within code depending on truck traffic, but 11' may be allowed. The bollards on the bridge would really help. Shelburne currently contracts out striping, South Burlington bought a line striper and it paid for itself quickly. Kevin really likes this idea, but thinks its a bit ambitious. Wendy thinks any improvements are justified. Susan like the striping, but not the bollards. Bollards often lead to a narrowing and less room to maneuver if there is an oncoming pedestrian. Marc said that the average sidewalk is 5' so that would be fine on the bridge - 11' car lanes and 5' with bollards. Kevin will send feedback to Jason and Jason will create a website to collect community feedback on this plan. If you have any feedback, send it to Kevin or Jason.

Planning Retreat

Kevin produced a draft agenda for a planning retreat. He thinks we could easily spend 5 hours. Marc thinks it would be hard to find 5 hours that we could all meet. Dean says maybe try to get to 4 hours or less so that we only take half a day. Joplin wondered if we could split this between our Jan/Feb meetings instead of taking a weekend day. Marc isn't sure we could give up two months. Marc thought about having January meeting from 6pm to 9. Dean said we could use our money to provide dinner. Extending the January meeting by an hour sounds good to

everyone. Wendy thinks the proposed agenda are all good things that we need to talk about. She wants to know how we fit in the Town's budget process. Dean said the day long budget session is new this year. We discussed how we learn about grants, are there others that we miss? Marc is on VTrans and RPC email lists so he hears about them before they come out. Marc said that Dean is our receptacle for grants. Dean said someone could look at this grant list against our project list and attempt to match them up. VTrans grants often have a changing priority year to year. I.e. connectivity, sidewalks, etc.

What should we focus on during this retreat? The important topics are history, availability of grants, top projects. Wendy will look up our mission. We will talk about the map. Marc wants to start with objectives and goals for the retreat. We may need to determine these before we set the agenda. Marc's goals for a retreat would be work on committee process. The chair coordinates with town (Joe and Dean) and committee members are point for individual projects. Wendy is interested in the history that Rocco has and wants to talk with him about what has worked well in the past, what has not. We will have the January extended meeting with the agenda items that Kevin proposed.

January meeting:

January 16 - special meeting 6-9pm to discuss long term planning

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45.

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.