

Paths Committee Meeting Notes January 8, 2018

Members attending: Wendy Saville, Chris Trapeni, Joplin James, Kevin Bohemke, Jeff Zweber

Staff attending: Dean Pierce

Public:

Executive Summary:

The paths committee met to discuss the 2018 budget plan, the town comprehensive plan, the LaPlatte River bridge and future development projects. The town budget plan does currently include the Bay Rd path between the Fish and Wildlife access and the Ti-Haul parking lot. The comprehensive plan includes potential changes in the Transportation section. This committee has input about these changes and will continue looking at these during our February meeting. The LaPlatte river bridge needs a formal document describing how future maintenance will be paid for and managed. The committee would like access to the town open space from the proposed Coleman project. This would benefit the new homeowners and create a potential for a LaPlatte River loop.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

The Agenda was approved.

The December meeting minutes were approved.

Budget Request

Wendy presented our budget request to the Selectboard. This primarily included a gravel path on Bay Rd to connect the Fish and Wildlife boat access and Ti-Haul parking lots. The official budget has a line item for "Traffic Calming measures", but nothing detailing this path. Dean did notice that the grant amount for another project was not included. He thought it was in past budgets, but looked at previous budgets and saw that it wasn't ever in the budget, just the CIP. He did see "line striping and crosswalks" with an increase from \$12k to \$20k for this year. Dean asked Joe Colangelo about this. Joe joined the meeting to discuss. The path is included but in the buildings and grounds section instead of highway. The money is allocated, but it doesn't have a specific line item. He called out other areas that include money for paths and pedestrian safety: the sidewalk maintenance line item and the generic traffic safety item for \$20k under the Highway section. This committee would have a say in how this money is allocated. Wendy asked about the matching grant for the Irish Hill project. Joe says that if we get the grant, we can use some of the other line items for the matching grant. Joe said that since the construction money won't be needed this year, he removed it. Wendy asked to have a specific line item in the current budget. Dean looked and this hasn't appeared in the budget in prior years. Joe talked about how this budget isn't complete yet and things may be dropped. The gravel path for \$10k could be one of the first to go.

Comprehensive Plan

Dean just met other department heads about the changes to the Comprehensive plan. The Planning Commission hasn't met since November due to quorum issues and the holidays. The initial Transportation discussion was originally going to be during the first February meeting. This will probably get pushed to the end of February meeting with follow up during the end of March meeting. We will continue adding our feedback during our February meeting in time to present to the Planning Commission

Dean drafted a response to the Baietti letter. He mentions the 2007 town wide plan of connecting neighborhoods and the complete streets principles. This plan has wide community support. Jeff thinks this response makes sense, but many of the Bay Rd residents feel that their voice isn't heard. Wendy thinks they want the ability to stop a project based on their view or property changes. Joplin said we should use Dean's response and move on.

There may be other changes made to the plan that include "placemaking" verbiage. This allows infrastructure to be built to community desires not just federal path standards. Kevin brought up new wording that calls out complete streets and the fact that these infrastructure changes do improve quality of life.

Another change is the potential Route 7 conversion to class 1 from the Laplatte river crossing to Vermont Teddy Bear. This would mean that the Town of Shelburne will have more control over this roadway without requesting changes from the State of Vermont. Financially this will cost the town a small amount of money, but the benefits are more local control over crosswalks, islands and similar changes.

Kevin would like to see the text qualifying changes based on vehicle counts removed from a section. Jeff thought maybe we could qualify based on VTrans highway classification. We agree that 3000 is too high, but are not sure how to come up with another number. Dean thinks we can strike that qualifier entirely.

Wendy found several typographical errors that Dean will correct. There was a sentence trying to describe street typography that needed clarification. Essentially it is trying to categorize which streets get which infrastructure.

"Not all travel modes are appropriate for all settings". This line should be removed. It is essentially saying that bikes and pedestrians don't belong on some roads.

Map discussion. We do need to have one. We explained how the map progress failed last time due to showing proposed trails on private land. Chris said that our next map shouldn't show any trails on private land. Dean said that we can add proposed links in text, but not physical lines on the map.

We will have one more meeting before the Planning Commission discusses this plan.

LaPlatte Bridge

Joplin said that Joe has given him new requirements for the maintenance plan. He has raised the \$12k he needs. Joe asked for exact contact names for future maintenance and inspection. Joplin is hoping that Local Motion will hold the account open to keep this money in a public account for future engineering inspections. Rocco (through a previous discussion with Joplin) thinks that we need a Bridge committee. Joplin thinks that a formal town committee is excessive for a yearly bridge inspection. It should remain an advisory committee. We all agree that this plan makes more sense. The details that Joe wants are the following: Securing the inspection, managing the inspection, managing the funds, and having a point person to ensure the inspections continue yearly.

Development Review

Sterling Construction has proposed a project on the Coleman property. This is on Irish Hill Rd near the LaPlatte River bridge. There is open space at the northern end that is probably common land for the homeowners. Joplin asked if this space could be town open space. We also believe that this development should require construction of a sidewalk on Irish Hill Rd.

The library project is moving forward. They are still working on parking and crosswalk design. The Fire Department has strict requirements for turning radius due to their large vehicles. Our committee stressed the need for pedestrian flow from the library to the Town Hall and the western edge of the parking lot.

Both of these projects aren't open to public comment yet. Natural Resources can comment now and Joplin thinks we should bring up our concerns to them. Dean can send Bart Frisbee of Sterling a memo detailing our thoughts about the common space now if we are interested. We agreed that this is something we would like to do.

Next meeting:

Monday Feb 19

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30.

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.

