

Minutes of Shelburne Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths Committee  
February 17, 2020  
Shelburne Town Offices 6:30pm

**Members Present:** Kevin Boehmcke, Chair (KB), Ted Grozier (TG), Kate Lalley (KL), Joplin James (JJ)

**Public Present:** Jocelyn and Luke Bouyea; Chris Kent and Jane Zenaty of Village Safety Group

**Staff Present:** Dean Pierce (DP)

1. Call to order 6:38 pm
2. Identify a note-taker for meeting
  - KL volunteered
3. Agenda approved without objection
4. Dec. 9, 2019 and and Jan. 13, 2020 minutes approved (JJ and TG seconded)
5. Discussion of Longmeadow-Boulder Hill connecting path
  - Jocelyn Bouyea, (landowner) is a 16-year resident of her property, understands there is a 10' easement for a bike path. Supports a walking path over a paved path. Says area is very wet in the spring and early summer. There is a footpath heading north, formerly a VAST trail that goes down to the Dutch Mill. A primitive path used by the neighborhood. Back of their house is private, concerned about privacy, would plant hedges.
  - KB assured this is a primitive path, delineate route, probably would be raised gravel, could be blazed to indicate where people should go.
  - JJ says it wouldn't be publicized; purpose is local neighborhood connectivity.
  - Jocelyn likes the idea of a route through the woods for her 11 year old son, Luke, to reach friends in nearby neighborhoods.
  - Committee looked at easement from Hullcrest. Farrell property is in between and there is no easement.
  - Jane Zenaty asked logistically how this would work?
  - DP says it would need State wetland permitting which could be complex and challenging, funding is simpler if done by volunteers.
  - KB wants to ask for some modest funding, this chance to engage the neighbors. Parking would not be provided.
  - Jocelyn sees it as a functional neighborhood connector and thinks most would see it that way. Asked about the Snyder homes development at Kwiniaska.
  - DP says path system will be provided. Over time it might connect to Morse/Boulder Hill path and from there to Longmeadow.
  - JJ says kids don't get out in the woods much anymore.

- KB said no timeline yet
- JJ said some primitive clearing of brush would be helpful. Said that neighbors with any concerns or questions should contact the Pathers. Trail markers are needed, maybe some special “Shelburne trail markers.”

#### 6. Public Comment:

- Jane Zenaty – can we collaborate on an AARP community challenge grant (April 1 deadline) for livability. Is there an idea?
  - Ex. They applied for funds for a bench at Crosswalk from cemetery to LaPlatte (didn’t get); if there is project their group could meet next week; connectivity and street improvements, transportation and mobility options.
  - One of their ideas is gateway signage into the village, ex. Marsett from Rt. 7. Is this an avenue for collaboration? Need to figure out grant application, etc. If interest, she would get group together.
  - KL suggested signage similar to in Ferrisburgh or Monkton (she has imagery); Jane says signage is a priority. KL described wayfinding signage from Hyde Park. Jane said the idea would be to follow the template for the signage in some places in the village (Ti Haul). Jane is thinking something like this but slightly more comprehensive.
  - KB asked about the SB’s role. DP explained that SB is involved if there is a match, need to check with Lee. DP said the AARP grant needs SB’s endorsement. KB thinks if Lee can ok, it could be greenlighted. Jane says no matching funds and the previous (failed) grant was okayed by the SB, so probably a quick item.
  - KB suggested getting the school kids involved, Jane agreed. They will communicate about this; Jane says she wrote the grant the last time and will spearhead again. Kevin says Pathers will help. Jane will call a meeting w her group.

#### 7. Update on bridge and sidewalk.

- DP updated. Planning specifications for materials are not reflective of actual costs. Bridge foundation is among elements more expensive; driving this is cost of engineering and construction has gotten higher; prefabricated bridge - options of materials for galvanized finish and concrete decking – adds 65K but lasts much longer. Lee and Dean are meeting next week; Lee is likely to want the least expensive. Eric from Stantec says we can go back to VTRANS and ask for more \$. Dean going to reach out to Jon Kaplan at VTRANS to see if this is an option, what the scenarios are. Political pressure from reps could help budge things, this is investment from VTRANS in our community. DP says next Wednesday Stantec will get the refined costs to staff, meet with Lee to get sense for expenses he’ll allow. Most money is in bridge foundation. Concrete most expensive sidewalk surface, using asphalt would save \$18K. Dean wants to go back to VTRANS and get more money.
- KB: What do we need to do? DP says maybe just keep up the pressure.

#### 8. Committee Membership

- KB stepping down as chair but staying on the committee. Vote to be held at next meeting.
9. JJ update on LaPlatte suspension bridge; staking down puncheons is next big job, will take lots of rebar.
  10. Next meeting March 16, 2020 at 6:30; new chair will be elected.
  11. Adjourned at 8pm; moved by KL, seconded by JJ.

12. Approval of Agenda – Approved by JJ, seconded by CW.

13. Approval of Minutes from July 29

- Correction: In last bullet of #8, it was Jane Zenaty and Jeff McBride who met with Lee to discuss line striping, not Chris Kent.
- Agenda approved. Motion by CW, seconded by JJ.

14. Public Comment

- Rae Kanarick introduces herself. She is a first-year student at CVU who was asked by Joplin if she would like to be part of the committee.
- Kevin and others welcomed by Rae. To officially join, Lee needs to put item on Selectboard agenda for approval.

15. Committee input on Form-Based Zoning sidewalk requirement for Maple Leaf Lane

- DP recapped zoning recommendations, including Form-Based Zoning to create “more livable” spaces by giving developers rules on how they build streets, and giving an incentive (e.g., more density) to follow Form-Based Zoning guidance. In this case, the reward is three houses instead of two. Form-Based Zoning is limited to town between bridge and S. Burlington line.
- The committee reviewed Google Maps and drawings of the proposed development. Key Question: Does it make sense for the developer to build a three-house sidewalk that does not connect to anything? (There is no sidewalk on Maple Leaf Lane.)
- CW: Is there a process to grant an exception?
- DP: One of the things the DRB could do is to grant a waiver, but the specific process for this does not yet exist.
- CW: But this [having sidewalks in new developments] is the direction we are going. Creating a waiver process could make it a system that can be played.
- DP: Can anyone suggest a waiver framework based on scale? (E.g., Act 250)
- TG: Feel strongly that no waiver should be used. Small children can use the sidewalk between the units.
- JJ: What can we learn from other towns? DP: Yes, sometimes a standard does get changed after it has been set, based on issues that come up in its implementation.
- DP: To be clear, Form-Based Zoning is optional. In this case, the developer gets an incentive [three-houses instead of two] to apply it.
- JZ: Am familiar with this as a neighbor. It may look silly to have a little sidewalk, but based on staff comments, the DRB is not reading it the same way I am, and the sidewalk is a bit of a Red Herring. Generally, the neighborhood says it makes no sense. It’s an in-fill development that doesn’t meet the pattern zoning.
- CW: I wish there were a clearer path to get a full sidewalk in your neighborhood. If so, this would make more sense to “connect the dots.”
- KB: If there were a desire to put a full sidewalk in, who would foot the bill?
- DP: It would be a Town issue. There is a danger of raising a fund for this, however, and it never gets used for its purpose.
- KB: There are so few neighborhoods with sidewalks in Shelburne, so aesthetically it doesn’t seem right here, but I don’t want to “let them off the hook.”
- JJ: Leave it to the DRB.
- TG: I feel strongly to leave the requirement. There may not be a lot of sidewalk in Shelburne, but you have to start somewhere.
- KB: Can we draw comparison to other developments? E.g. Gardenside? DP: They are in a redesign now, but my understanding is that they will have a sidewalk.
- DP: Preliminary inclination of Planning Commission is not to change it.
- CW: I have been persuaded. I move to recommend to the Planning Commission that we keep the Public Realm Standards unchanged. TG: Seconded.
- Vote: 4 (KB, CW, TG, JZ) in favor, 1 (JJ) abstains.
- A lively discussion. TG moves to share the minutes, CW seconds. Motion passes.

16. Updates regarding committee/member initiatives:

- a) Discussion of identified project from July meeting [a path to connect Longmeadow Drive and Boulder Hill Drive]
- JJ and JZ walked from Boulder Hill to Longmeadow. It is a viable path but wet in the spring. When we got to Longmeadow, there was no indication of traffic through the existing easement.
  - JJ spoke with Joey Adams who lives on the road to see if there is neighborhood interest. He seemed to think there would be support because of dog walkers. Mentioned that Jocelyn Bouyea owns the house with the easement. She and her neighbor are aware and open to the possibility of its use.
  - RK notes that her neighborhood also has a primitive trail connecting that is well used.
  - JZ: There is potential to connect to Pierson Drive as well. You'd want to make a triangle.
  - KB: I was able to get names and addresses of people in the neighborhood, and would pass around to see if committee members know any of these. (Paper circulates and is initialed.) My proposal is to solicit their input at a future meeting.
  - DP: To alleviate fear that a major paved path will be built, remember that it is wet, and you're not going to get permits to pave it.
- b) Bike share
- CW reports Gotcha's E-bike fleet didn't get approved, so Shelburne is not going to be a focus area until 2020. The CCRPC [Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission] shared mobility survey results are in. Figure 27, page 22 addresses bikeshare issue.
- c) Village Safety group coordination
- CK gives update on the Village Pedestrian Safety group. They have a [website hosted on the Local Motion site](#). One update: the attempt to have a Stop sign on Falls Road at Church Street failed.
  - Next meeting is tomorrow at 6:00 pm. CK will attend and report back
- d) LaPlatte Nature Park trail improvement and maintenance
- Michael Dutch from Vermont Willow Nursery (who donated the willows) has visited the trail. Suggested a new method of bundling the willows in the bank to improve stability – laying them horizontally, and they will sprout vertically.
  - KB: Seems like a lot is growing there. JJ: This is normal, and the willows will not be crowded out.
  - KB: How is the fund doing? JJ: We will need another push toward fundraising.
- e) Line striping
- CK: There have been some improvements by our town road crew. Others on the committee have noticed the improvements.

17. Update regarding projects:

- a) Irish Hill Road project [to add bike lanes]

- There is a project manager now and things are moving along. The State needs to review it; expectation is that it will pass, contract will be signed, and engineering planning will move forward.
- KB: Is the engineering firm being hired for a period of time?
- DP: For the project. Expectation is not to have it done in a year, but in the following spring.

b) Path along Bay Road near fishing access

- KB: Has been put down and graveled; it will be paved. Closest residents thought it looked a little narrow. Plan is to pave this fall.
- CW: What are the endpoints? Boat launch and Shelburne Bay Parking lot.

18. Committee Membership

- KB: Still in need of a committee member. Keep looking. JJ: Want to represent more parts of the Town. For example, Dorset Street and eastern side of Town.

19. Other Business

- News coverage. Can reach out to *The Shelburne News* but what is the hook? CK: The variety of topics.
- CW: Is there anything we need community support on? We don't want to waste an opportunity if we get coverage.
- DP: Budget is crucial.
- KB: Did the student article make it to press? DP: I believe so. Will dig it up.

20. Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

- October 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30.
- Motion to adjourn by CW, JZ seconded. 8:04 p.m.