

Paths Committee meeting

April 16, 2018

Members Attending: Wendy Savile, Kevin Boehmcke, Rocco Antinozzi, Joplin James, Jeff Zweber

Staff: Dean Pierce

Guests: Tom Knight, Steven Baietti, JZ daughter, JZ son

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Wendy Saville at 7:05. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda: Reordering of the published agenda was considered in light of the guests and Jeff Zweber's need to depart the meeting early. The suggested reordering is reflected in the following:

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| 4. | Approval of March 19, 2018 Minutes |
| 5. | Public Comment |
| 5A | Coleman project/ LaPlatte River bridge |
| 6. | Town budget items: |
| | a. Discussion to include: connection to Paths goals, line striping allocation (\$10,000), traffic safety allocation (\$20,000), paving allocation (\$300,000). |
| | b. Develop a statement offering guidance (striping, paving, etc)? |
| 7. | Map for Town Plan |
| | a. Discussion to include: What is the goal of the map? What is its value? Should it include "hoped for paths"? How about easements? |
| 8. | Enhancements to town paths |
| | a. Kate Webb idea |
| 9. | Village Pedestrian Safety group- |
| | a. AARP grant |
| 10. | On-going items; LaPlatte [suspension] bridge, membership |

Rocco Antinozzi moved approval of the agenda as revised. Joplin James seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual Reorganization: Wendy Saville recapped the need for annual election of Chair and Vice Chair. She added she does not wish to continue to serve as Chair. Wendy went on to endorse Kevin Boehmcke as Chair. Jeff Zweber moved for the election of Kevin Boehmcke as Chair, and Wendy seconded. The motion was approved. Kevin assumed the duties of Chair. Kevin then moved for the election of Wendy as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Joplin James. The motion was approved unanimously. Kevin inquired about interest in election of a Secretary. Action on the election of the secretary was deferred.

Approval of Minutes: Wendy Saville moved approval of the minutes for the March meeting. Joplin James seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Stephen Baietti asked about the process by which Committee comments on the Transportation section of the Comprehensive Plan would be advanced to the Planning Commission. Dean Pierce described the process generally, noting that Kate Lalley would likely lead the discussion/presentation at the Planning Commission meeting. Discussion of the transportation section will not take place for at least three weeks.

Coleman project/ LaPlatte River bridge: Dean Pierce made remarks providing context for the so-called Coleman property project (consisting of three duplex buildings) and the recent discussion of the LaPlatte River Pedestrian bridge. The bridge, which was the subject of a 2012 report, is proposed for the area north of the existing highway bridge. The proposal to develop the property has people wondering if there is a way construction of the bridge might be accelerated. Rocco Antinozzi also offered context, indicating that broad support has existed for the bridge ever since the report was completed. Tom Knight, PE, is a Shelburne resident employed by the engineering company that helped develop the report. He noted he is attending the meeting in a personal capacity but is happy to answer questions about the bridge and report. He also described some of the features of bridges that affect cost and durability. Rocco Antinozzi asked about the cost of engineering required to prepare construction-ready plans. Tom responded the cost would be in the vicinity of \$30,000. Tom then described the construction technique incorporated in the estimates contained in the report. Modifying the technique would affect the eventual construction cost. Jeff Zweber, also an engineer, wondered about the potential benefit of creating a schematic design. Tom indicated that preparation of a '30 percent design' might be beneficial, as the report is 'qualitative' in some respects and did not include 3-dimensional survey. Kevin Boehmcke asked Tom if the Town might have more success submitting a grant application for the bridge alone. Tom responded he did not have enough experience with the grant program to know. Owing to time limitations, discussion drew to a close. Tom offered to continue to provide input on the project. He will be in touch with Dean Pierce.

Budget Items. Wendy Saville reported that she had been in contact with Finance Director Peter Frankenburg regarding the budget items. Per an initial email from Peter:

1. Line striping/crosswalks is a budget line item in Paul Goodrich's highway budget. It is spent repainting crosswalks that have faded and any new areas where crosswalks are planned. I'm not sure Paul has a specific list of projects that total the budget amount as it is difficult to predict in advance where repainting or new areas will be needed.
2. Capital Projects: This is also a highway Dept. budget item where Paul plans capital projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan. Most of it is planned to be used on Pond Road building up the road base in areas where there are pot holes and/or spring mud is a problem. Given that this line item is always cut from what Paul requests, I doubt there would be much available for other projects.
3. Traffic Safety improvements: The \$20,000 amount was put in the budget by the Selectboard. I don't know what projects were intended to be included. The line item has been used for projects the Village safety committee undertakes. You might want to talk to Jerry Storey about the possibility of using these funds.

I think it would be a good idea for you to talk to Paul Goodrich about areas in town where the Bike/Ped committee has safety concerns, for example where a wider shoulder or painting fog lines would be helpful. (He widened the shoulder on Bay Road near the Ti Haul intersection as part of the Bay Road repaving). His budget does include some shoulder work. He will be setting his summer paving schedule within the next month so it would be a good time to speak to him about roads in town you are concerned with. Hopefully you could address some of your concerns within work he is planning. Obviously we aren't talking about the large bike/ped projects in the Capital Improvement

Plan, but hopefully some work could be done in other areas of concern the Bike Ped path committee has.

Please let me know if you have questions or need anything further.

Paul Goodrich does not have an email address but you can reach him at 316-1536.

And, per a separate follow up email from Peter:

Wendy: I did mention to Paul Goodrich that you may be contacting him and he would be happy to talk to you about your projects and if anything can be worked in with projects he is planning. He is on vacation next week but you can reach him after that 316-1536. I think it would be worth talking to the Village Safety committee also, because I have not heard what specific projects they are looking at doing within their \$20k allocation next fiscal year.

It was Wendy's recommendation that the committee consider recommending priorities areas for line-stripping and that a member of the committee should interact with Paul Goodrich regarding line-stripping. Concerning the \$20,000 allocation, questions to be resolved include What portion of that amount is to be directed to 'Paths Committee projects'? And: What portion is to be used for 'Village safety group projects?' Wendy has scheduled a meeting with Joe Colangelo in hopes of determining the answer before Joe leaves for his new job. On a related note, Dean Pierce then reported that Joe Colangelo had recently encouraged the Selectboard to consider adopting a policy regarding line striping. The comment was made at the Selectboard retreat. Dean also mentioned he'd learned of a meeting between Joe, the incoming interim Town Manager, and a representative of the Village Safety group, which suggests the committee might want to consider scheduling a meeting with the interim manager sooner rather than later. Members then discussed the sometimes-overlooked significance of what a group is named. Jeff Zweber noted that the Paths Committee might be hamstrung by not having the word Safety included as part of its name. Dean observed that prior Rob Donahue becoming Chair, the name of the group was Neighborhood Paths Committee; changes to the name are not without precedent. Discussion of the item concluded with Kevin Boehmcke indicating that he would send out a reminder email seeking member input on the priority list.

Map for Town Plan: Dean Pierce provided background information relating to maps that should be included in the Town's comprehensive plan. He shared copies of a draft bike-ped map prepared circa 2010 and two other more conceptual maps developed recently. Dean encouraged members to consider the questions listed in the agenda (What is the goal of the map? What is its value? Should it include "hoped for paths"? How about easements?) In response to a question from Kevin Boehmcke, Dean noted that the number of maps isn't capped. Currently the Town Plan contains more than 30, two of which address bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Natural Resources and Conservation Committee is working on a similar effort, and that group is contemplating the creation of four maps. Jeff Zweber, while preparing to leave the meeting, said he is looking forward to hearing more about the conversation concerning this issue. In his view, three maps might be appropriate. One would show existing facilities, the second would show easements, and the third would illustrate conceptual improvements. [Jeff Zweber and his guests departed the meeting at 8:23; a quorum was maintained] Rocco Antinozzi suggested one of the maps might include information about the width of the historic right-of-way. Dean noted this is certainly possible. Wendy Saville endorsed creation of a map showing existing facilities and paths. Among other benefits, such a map could be used as a 'tourism piece' and reference showing "where people can walk." Rocco encouraged asking Pam Brangan of the Chittenden County Regional

Planning Commission to be involved. Wendy expressed support for the functional class approach shown in the conceptual maps Dean has circulated. Kevin Boehmcke asked if a committee member wished to volunteer to take the lead on map development. No volunteer was identified and in light of the time, discussion moved to the next agenda item.

AARP grant: Wendy Saville explained that members of the Village Safety group aim to submit an application for a grant program (Livable Communities) administered by AARP. Projects funded by the grant can include those that “Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options in the community through permanent or temporary solutions that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability and/or access to public and private transit.” Jane Zenaty of the Village Safety group has reached out to Wendy and to representatives of the library to seek input on possible projects. Representatives of the Committee and the library have been invited to the Village Safety group meeting planned for April 17. Both Wendy and Kevin plan to attend. Kevin noted that he is not certain what the Village Safety group is looking for from the Paths Committee. Wendy wondered the same thing, noting the committee’s role could range from endorsement of the application to something more. Kevin volunteered that given the scope and timing of the grant the most effective application might be one focusing on a discrete improvement that had already been planned. Members then discussed other possible projects. Dean Pierce added comments relating to the impact changes to the library site plan could have on the permitting required for the library. If the library is somehow incorporated into the grant the most prudent approach might be to seek funding for a feature such as a path already shown on the plan.

LaPlatte suspension bridge, committee membership: Joplin James reported that outgoing Town Manager Joe Colangelo had approved the maintenance plan for the suspension bridge, which was the final step needed to comply with the DRB approval of the project. Joplin, with input from Rocco Antinozzi, then described issues associated with the installation of the ground anchors needed to erect the bridge. The anchors number 16 and must be installed 8 feet deep. Finding contractors to install the anchors has posed challenges. Rocco has been exploring whether equipment could be rented. If so, perhaps the anchors could be installed by volunteers. Kevin Boehmcke wondered if the committee might allocate some of its funds to host an event to support the installation and support the volunteers. Joplin and others supported that concept, although Joplin noted that care should be taken to avoid violating the terms of the agreement allowing the bridge, which requires that Town funds not be used to pay for the bridge. Regarding membership, Wendy Saville mentioned she had been in touch with Naomi Williams at CVU in hopes of finding a student member for the group. Wendy also offered to draft text to be used by Kevin as part of a Front Porch Forum post encouraging a member of the community to join the committee. Given the change in leadership in the Town manager’s office, Kevin’s post will encourage respondents to reply to him, and he will forward the letters of interest to the Town manager.

Kate Webb idea for paths: Dean Pierce provided a brief description of Kate Webb’s idea for astronomy-themed interpretive signs along paths in Shelburne. The idea was inspired by signs Kate saw while traveling. Members were somewhat intrigued by the idea but wondered if photographs could be supplied. Dean Pierce will reach out to Kate and request photos if she has them. Discussion then briefly touched on funding, with Dean mentioning a state grant program relating to community art. It isn’t clear whether Kate Webb has a particular funding source in mind for the project. Wendy Saville expressed support for the creation of interpretive signage generally.

Adjournment: The group identified May 21st as the date of the next committee meeting. Wendy Saville moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Rocco Antinozzi. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:05.