

Minutes:
Fairhaven Bike Path Committee
April 26, 2012

Attendance: Mark Badwey, Greg Bettencourt, Jane Bettencourt, Matthew Coes, Peter DeTerra, Robert Espindola, Rene J. Fleurent, Jr., Nancy Greene, Julianne Kelly, Kenneth Pottel, William Roth, Jr., Kathleen Sturtevant, Geoffrey Sullivan, Susan Sullivan

- Election of officers: Kenneth Pottel- chair, Greg Bettencourt-vice chair, Nancy Greene-clerk
- May need to form “Friends” group for fundraising and for upkeep and maintenance, the original “Friends of the Fairhaven Bike Path” group produced a brochure which was shared with the committee
- Bill Roth reviewed “Memo- RE: Fairhaven Biking Information” from a planning perspective: **DCR/Ft Phoenix** – consider connection to Fort Phoenix, striping bike lanes or sharrows on Laurel St., signage on Phoenix Trail directing people to the Fort, **Riverwalk**- New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven-Technical Assistant Grants to have SRPEDD work on planning, **Sciticut Neck Road/West Island** –consider connection from Little Bay Loop to West Island town beach-**Sciticut Neck Road & Bike Path Intersection**- need to improve safety-revisit issue-**Existing Phoenix Bike Path**-need for better signage (directional signs, interpretive signs), mile markers coordinated with Mattapoisett, create standards for benches and tables-**General**- identify “On-Road” bike routes throughout town and install “Share the Road” signs, map existing and proposed routes and bike paths when “Open Space & Recreational Plan” is updated-also consider New Boston Road area at this time(town acquired land- trails could be mapped outand use CPC funds)
- Consider inviting Nancy Durfee from SRPEDD to present at a future meeting regarding Riverwalk.
- Bill Roth provided a GOOGLE MAP image to members of Fairhaven Riverwalk map via email
- Susan Sullivan asked if there was money available to pay for the Riverwalk Trail- Bill Roth informed committee that there is money for planning of the trail only-will need funding source for construction, striping, signage, etc.- consider CPC money
- Wood School access- discussed connecting existing bike path with Wood School
- Kathy Sturtevant(also a BPW commissioner) will talk to Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau about brighter striping on Neck crossing.
- Bill mentioned the bike path in Falmouth-he will take pictures of signs when he rides on it in the future-this may provide ideas that we may want to consider for our path.
- Suggestion- Have Beth David write an article for Neighborhood News on Bike Safety.
- Ken Pottel spoke about the Bicentennial Family Fun Day, July 14th at Cushman Park- he suggested a “Bike around Town” event- Bob Espindola, Geoffrey Sullivan, Susan Sullivan and Rene Fleurent, agreed to help Ken map a route around town. Julianne Kelly mentioned the Gloucester “Bike to the Sea”- may look at their event for help with the July 14th event.

- Julianne and Bob mentioned the UMass Bicycle Training Safety to be held on 5/12/12 from 8:30 am-2:00 pm- this is a free course hosted by SRPEDD, UMASS Dartmouth, Mass in Motion and the Southcoast YMCA. There is an online test.
- Julianne and Bob are also members of the South Coast Bikeway Committee (a regional group)- they have been meeting for the past year-goal is for path to connect Providence to Provincetown- they are focusing presently on Fall River to Wareham piece of the path-all towns within this area to be involved- they received a grant to produce a brochure which was shared with the committee-there is still money available from the grant that Fairhaven and other communities could use-committee could develop a brochure that could be used as an insert to the South Coast Bikeway brochure- Julianne mentioned that East Coast Greenway from Maine to Key West, Florida has adopted the Providence to Provincetown path as a “spur”
- Bob mentioned that the Sustainability Committee also has money that we may be able to use.
- Bob mentioned A “Clean Bike Path Day”-he suggested a subcommittee-Julianne and Greg will work with Bob on this-Fairhaven Business Association group has signed on to help- Kathy will speak with John Charbonneau for BPW assistance with collecting trash on that day- a suggestion was made to consider contacting the Sherriff’s Department to help with cleaning the path.
- Greg asked who is responsible for maintaining the existing bike path-Kathy said it is the BPW, however, money is a concern-Greg shared pictures with the committee showing damage to the path (graffiti, rotting signs, broken fencing)-Kathy will take pictures to BPW, Mark Badwey will speak with Vic Oliveira regarding repairing the sign that is rotting.
- Bill Roth will set up a Bike Path Committee page on the town website-he encouraged all members to send information and or pictures to include on webpage, consider a mission statement-he suggested we look at other towns for ideas.
- Bill will post future notices of meetings, agendas, meeting minutes and maintain website
- Decision for future meetings to be held the 4th Thursday of the month.