

Minutes:

Fairhaven Bike Path Committee

November 29, 2012

Attendance: Mark Badwey, Matthew Coes, Robert Espindola, Rene J. Fleurent, Jr., Nancy Greene, Kenneth Pottel, William Roth, Jr., Kathleen Sturtevant and Geoffrey Sullivan

- October 25, 2012 meeting minutes approved
- Update from Bill Roth on CPC application- Bill stated that CPC meeting will be held on 12/13/12 at 6 p.m.-CPC committee will hold 10 minute interviews for applicants-members of bike path committee will be in attendance to present our application-Bill will make Committee aware if we are granted CPC funds when decision has been made.
- Public Meeting/Forum- decision made to hold a meeting for the public in March-may lead to Friend's group. Will decide date at January meeting. Consider a Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m.- will advertise in newspaper and on radio, distribute flyers to residents that live along neck road-seeking community input to our plans-also educate community on bike safety-will concentrate on two goals- Geoff and Bill will present our goal for West Island connection and Rene will present the Scoticut Neck crossing issue. Matt will briefly discuss our future goals which involve connections to North Fairhaven, East Fairhaven and the Fort-Bob also suggested that we inform public about the Riverwalk project. Discussion was held on how to ensure a good turnout. Consider speaker prior to forum such as Craig Della Pena(Rails To Trails Advocate). Ken will contact Craig to see if he would be available in March.
- Regional Update  
Julianne was unable to attend meeting, however, Ken shared an email from her that encouraged members to attend Mass DOT meeting December 3<sup>rd</sup> at UMASS Dartmouth from 6-8 p.m. and voice our support for bicycling as a statewide priority. In her email she states that "Mass DOT is holding a series of statewide discussions this fall to engage the public in a conversation about the transportation system they want and what they need to do to achieve that vision." This is one of those meetings. This is an opportunity to tell Mass DOT that we want a dedicated bike path connecting Fall River to New Bedford and to tell them we want to improve safety of bicycling in the area.

Bob is now the Chairman of the Southcoast Bikeway Committee-Bob stated that they have money in their budget and plan to purchase signs that state "Southcoast Bikeway" and have an arrow pointing in the proper direction that will be posted in the communities along the bikeway. The mentioned the 6 sign location considerations for Fairhaven, these include over the bridge near Main St, on Washington St, Scoticut Neck Road, Shaw Road. Bob also mentioned that they are considering holding a legislative breakfast to explain what the regional group is doing to gain legislative support-consider holding at one of the Lafrance establishments which are located along the Southcoast Bikeway, such as White's or Hampton Inn.

- Ken will send letter to Selectmen requesting change in our name to **Fairhaven Bikeway Committee.**

- Kathy spoke with BPW – Steve Riley expressed the Board’s support for anything that would improve safety, however, finding funds to help pay for projects is always a concern- Rene and Matt will meet with Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau to discuss Scoticut Neck Crossing, temporary fix. West Island-Balsam Road has a sign that is being used to slow down traffic where walkers cross road to enter beach a similar sign could be placed in the center of the neck crossing to slow down traffic and make them aware of possible bikers, etc. that may be crossing the neck road.
- Next meeting-Thursday, January 24, 2013- Town Hall-7 p.m.