

Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Members present: Ted Combes, Kyle D’Urso (by phone), Mike Speltz, Marty Srugis, Sandy Lagueux, Ray Breslin, Tim Seikmann, Mary Tetrault
Also present: John Vogl

T. Combes called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

I. Review minutes from 9/28

No action taken

II. Continued discussion re: trails/walkability; identification of priority pedestrian network

T. Combes introduced S. Lagueux who offered to lead the discussion on priority areas for implementing pedestrian improvements. S. Lagueux stated she wished to assemble a list of places from each member that are important for walking or biking and this brainstorm of ideas that would comprise a “wish list” of improvements. She explained that the goal was to put out all ideas and then look for clusters of support among members. She further stated that the goal tonight was to examine the center of town; future meetings would cover other areas. After each member offered suggestions, the group would place three votes on each idea that they supported.

Members expressed the following list of ideas and assigned the following support totals:

- Extend multi-use pathway from Moose Hill School to Wilshire Drive (9)
- Extend existing path from Pillsbury Road/Mammoth Rd intersection southerly to Mack’s Apples (5)
- Extend multi-use pathway from the Middle school northerly to Shasta (2)
- Provide a connection through town ROW through the Woodbine neighborhood to the Middle/High Schools (3)
- Extend improvements from Mammoth/Pillsbury intersection easterly along Pillsbury Road to Woodmont Commons (4)
- Create an in-town connection from the Middle School easterly along Otterson Road (1)

In discussion of the suggested trail sites, the following ideas/comments were expressed:

R. Breslin expressed that sidewalks would be required along Mammoth Road in order to create a safe travel path along this busy road. He had concerns about pedestrian traffic on Pillsbury Road. He expressed that the priority should be safety first and that pedestrians should be in an off-road, separate

space similar to the town's multi-use pathway. S. Lagueux explained that the multi-use pathway was designed with safety in mind and that it only runs alongside the edge of pavement where there were limitations in right-of-way or in intersection design.

M. Speltz stressed that the Committee needs to look at destinations and assemble a network of routes to reach those destinations.

M. Speltz stated that the Conservation Commission will be expecting logging roads be assembled south of Shasta to provide access to a wildlife habitat cut just south of the Eversource powerlines. He said these logging roads provide a potential informal trail system.

S. Lagueux asked the group to consider the feasibility of each project. She stated that the trail extension from Moose Hill School to Wilshire Drive had already been designed and budgeted. She stated the budget was considered outdated. K. D'Urso offered to review the design materials and previous costing and try to provide a rough, updated estimate.

R. Breslin asked if parents were willing to send their kids out to bike to school; is that safe and would it be successful?

M. Srugis informed the group that he was initially skeptical about pedestrian improvements being implemented in Concord but he has seen them grow in use and popularity over time. He stated that as the system gets safer, he sees more and more bikers.

S. Lagueux asked if the Committee should conduct an informal poll of the residents in the Wilshire Drive neighborhood to gauge their level of interest. J. Vogl stated that he thought it was too soon to do so. He said the Committee should be focused on the big picture and not advocate for any single project without direction from the Planning Board

M. Speltz reminded the Committee that SNHPC recommended that the town adopt a policy statement that would apply to all future development projects. He stated this should occur alongside planning for specific capital improvements. J. Vogl agreed and said that the Planning Board was looking for both practical improvements and policy ideas that they could take action on. Further, J. Vogl said the Committee needed to expand their list of ideas to the whole town, not just the center.

R. Breslin asked if the Town was favoring sidewalks over other facilities. S. Lagueux replied that Trailways supports all types of connections, be they woods connections or paved connections. She stated that the Planning Board was interested in transportation connections given their jurisdiction. She summarized the DRC process and how Trailways was involved in some projects. J. Vogl answered that their involvement is why sidewalks are in place in most condominium and elderly housing projects. S. Lagueux and J. Vogl agreed the Planning Board was looking for solutions to both retrofit existing streets as well as a guide for improvements to new streets.

M. Speltz offered to work with J. Vogl on developing policy language for the Planning Board to consider. This would be derived from Portsmouth's policy. J. Vogl concurred.

T. Combes and T. Seikmann observed that improved in the Town Center area opened the accessibility to churches, Town Forest and Mack's Apples. They stated this helped achieve other Master Plan goals supporting agri-tourism.

R. Breslin expressed the concern that there water/sewer improvements coming that would provide opportunities for complete streets improvements during construction events. He said that the improvements could encourage denser developments and that might drive more pedestrian demand. Further, he expressed that the Committee needs to be focused on community infrastructure.

T. Combes summarized the discussion and stated that the Committee would look at trail possibilities in the remainder of Town at the next meeting. He affirmed that J. Vogl and M. Speltz would review complete streets policy statements in the meantime.

III. Status updates to implementation chart

No discussion.

IV. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by M. Srugis, second by M. Speltz. All vote affirmative, 8-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes by John Vogl