

## Lyme Bike Path Group meeting minutes - May 19, 2010

Members present: David Celone, Peter Mulvihill, Colin Robinson, George Hartmann, Anne Hartmann, and Alix Howell

The meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes of the March 11, 2010 meeting were read and approved.

The committee next discussed the status of the town to pond bike path endeavor. At the last meeting, it appeared that all landowners for whom the trail would bisect were in agreement to allow the trail through their property. However, since that meeting, one landowner whose property abuts Loch Lyme Lodge has raised concerns about privacy and liability and has communicated his decision to Colin Robinson and Pete Mulvihill (on separate occasions) to disallow the trail through his property on either side of Rte. 10.

There was a long discussion about what this particular landowner's concerns might be and how they could be resolved. Colin Robinson suggested that perhaps the committee could offer a concrete plan to the landowner that would include a document addressing each of his concerns. Other discussion centered around alternatives to the trail in the woods along the west side of Route 10, such as a trail from the town offices to the pond along the east side of Route 10, the widening of Route 10 to include paved shoulders of at least 2 feet in width along both sides of the road, and of asking the town to take the property in question on the landowner's property by exercising their right of "eminent domain".

After much discussion of the pros and cons of each of the alternatives, it was decided that some of these alternatives were outside the scope of the present committee, and/or were not alternatives the committee wished to pursue.

David mentioned that Bradford May, a retired architect, had contacted him and would like to see the trail created from the town to the pond and offered his assistance. We then discussed the possibility of Bradford May doing a rendering of the trail, along with a document that Colin Robinson would prepare that would address any of the landowner's concerns. In addition, we would contact Russell Hirschler (Lyme resident and executive director of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance) to identify common landowner concerns in these situations and how he would address them (such as trash clean up, noise, preventing motorized vehicles, etc).

Anne Hartmann mentioned that Ross McIntyre has a right of way across this landowner's property and may be able to talk with him about his concerns about the trail. However, it became clear that other members of the committee had spoken with Ross and he was not enthused about discussing this with the landowner.

Ultimately, the committee came up with two options that they would pursue, one at a time.

The first option that would be pursued first, would be to have Bradford May, Colin Robinson and Russell Hirschler prepare renderings of two trail options - one along the east side of Route 10 and the other along the west side of Route 10 and present both of these to the landowner in question. Colin also suggested that the town offer to pay for legal review if the landowner requested it.

The second option, which would be pursued if the first option failed, would be for the town to contact the state to improve Route 10 by widening the shoulders at least 24" along both the east and west side of Route 10 from the pond to the center of town. In fact, it was suggested that the town should do this anyway, even if option 1 were to pass, as road bikes would not be able to use the trail safely given the type of surface it would have (dirt and gravel).

The third option, which the committee was not in favor of, but which was mentioned as an option nonetheless, was for the town to take the land required for the trail from the landowner in question by "eminent domain".

The committee agreed to move on the first option as soon as possible, so that there would be time to pursue the second option should the first one fail.

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alix Howell