



Orleans Bike and Walkways Committee



Judith Weil, Chairperson, Jim Demaree, Vice Chairperson, Anne Carron, Secretary
Patricia Bradley, Kevin Higgins, Alison Flynn, Joseph Haddad, Jon Fuller, Selectman Liaison

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November 2, 2009

The November 2, 2009 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judi Weil at 4:06 PM.

Members:

Present: Judi Weil, Chairperson, Anne Carron, Secretary, Patricia Bradley, Alison Flynn, Kevin Higgins.

Regrets: Jim Demaree and Joe Haddad.

Guests: **Jon Fuller**, Liaison for the Orleans Board of Selectmen.

Public Comment:

None

Review and Approve the October Monthly Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the October 4, 2009 meeting were discussed, corrected and approved as amended, 4-0-1.

Review and Update Action Items:

115: South Orleans Feasibility Trail Study:

Judi has written up a synopsis/conclusion of our year-long study, with FST, to be presented to the Board of Selectmen on November 4. The presentation will essentially be the same report as was given to the Community of Preservation Committee, except for a few appropriate "tweaks" for the Selectmen.

Anne has asked John Jannell to make up a few maps of the proposed study's area to go along with the presentation so that the audience will get a visual picture, as well. In Judi's absence, she will give the report.

137: Roadway Master Plan:

Judi commented she did not get around to speaking with John Jannell about the map; however, Alison reported talking with him, and the gist of their conversation was "it depended on what we wanted shown on the map".

Discussion revolved around classifications (Class I, Class II or Class III) of the various roads, and Alison wondered if the map should reflect our "wish list" or "how the roads are now and our wish list"?

Anne was confused because she thought the Priority Roads list was the committee's list of the top roads of importance in the town, demonstrating to the Highway Dept. and the Town Administrator our wishes for them to either focus on those roads to upgrade, or, at least, to upgrade them whenever they did become scheduled for work.

Judi stated she was not aware of the original intent of the committee from several years ago, and Kevin added that when the committee initially talked about this, he thought the intent was to "segway- off a biking route - for instance, in East Orleans (Main St., Barley Neck Rd., Twiss Rd. and coming around that way), but, then, when they discovered there was no money, that fell by the wayside; plus, some of the people who lived down that way, did not want a scenic bikeway route in their neighborhood". Kevin said that's when the committee pulled back, and they decided to just stick with trying to improve the roads (i.e., widening, sidewalks) for the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.

Alison wondered if we needed a series of maps –for instance, one map with our Priority Roads, and another map with what we already have (to go along with the town’s Comprehensive Plan), etc.

Further discussion confirmed the fact that the committee must make their voices heard when the roads are in the design stage. This stage is when the budget for the road is determined, and the engineers can incorporate either widening the road or adding sidewalks or something.

Jon Fuller reminded the committee to pass their comments to Town Administrator, John Kelly first, who will then pass them along to Highway Superintendent, Mark Budnick. There is continual frustration over the fact that the committee is left out of the loop with regards to road projects in town. It would be desirable if, after the annual town meeting has voted on the budget for the upcoming year, the Highway Superintendent would e-mail the committee with his outline of intended projects so that the committee could add their input.

With the State talking about either putting in a round-a-bout or signal lights at the intersection of Rts. 6A and 28, it behooves the committee to attend the upcoming public hearing (date unknown at this time).

Judi will let Chief Roy know the committee is interested in attending the Traffic Study Committee’s meetings, with, perhaps, members taking turns attending the (infrequent) meetings.

The Priority Roads project is to be continued.

103: Accident Log:

Kevin had nothing to add to the list provided to Judi by Mr. Deering, E.M.S. Coordinator on the Orleans Fire-Rescue Dept. regarding bicycle crashes from May-September, except to say one of the accidents, involving a motor vehicle and a bike (210 Main St.), resulted in issuing a citation, and another accident (Salty Ridge Rd. @ the Bike Trail) appears to have been due to the slippery paint on the rain-slicked road, which has been an issue in the past, and Kevin feels should be addressed.

106: Safe Routes to School:

Alison is planning on attending the Safe Routes to School conference on Nov. 5th. Pat still has not heard anything from the schools. She did send an e-mail to the woman in charge (Amy) of the PIE (Partners in Education) at the Elementary School to tell her a little bit about the program and give her Matt Wall’s name (our contact/area coordinator). Pat will follow up with Diane Carriero, school principal.

119: International Worker Training/Chamber of Commerce:

Judi and Jim went to Shaw’s and Shaw’s was very receptive to participating, along with Stop and Shop, in the program. Shaw’s had 30 international workers this year, and many of them had 2 jobs. Shaw’s handed out the helmets Jim had given them; they had 1 helmet left, but none of the ones they passed out were returned. They had 3 accidents and they believe they were all at night (may be due to dark clothing; no lights). The DVD was shown to some of the workers, but not everyone saw it because it had not arrived earlier. They have some brochures left, too.

Shaw’s indicated they might be willing to buy some helmets (12-15), but would like to see what the cost would be. They did not buy any of the lights (Jim discovered a new light, at \$4.95, at Snow’s).

Pat had an idea about looking for bicycles in yard sales (and an advantage of donating them and perhaps getting a tax write-off), and Kevin said some International Workers check Craig’s List for bicycles.

Shaw’s didn’t feel the letter from Chief Roy was helpful, and they were not receptive to a Spring meeting for the incoming workers, who arrive around mid-May (Stop & Shop had indicated they thought a Spring meeting would be beneficial and they liked the letter from Chief Roy).

135: New Access Route – Canal Road from Stop&Shop Parking Lot:

Wait for Jim’s return.

129: Quarterly Update of Current Bike Laws:

Kevin got hold of someone in the Worcester area, a “bike czar”, and he recently went to a kick-off meeting at the Transportation Center in Hyannis where it was announced they will be launching a big campaign, beginning sometime in 2010, called, “Same Roads, Same Rules” law. The idea is that bicyclists will be held accountable for the same rules motorists have (e.g., if they come up to a stop sign and don’t stop/go through, they will be ticketed).

Kevin sees problems with this (if it comes to fruition) in the summer because, with all the traffic on Main Street, there is not enough room for bicyclists to drive on the road (around cars), so they are forced to drive on the sidewalks.

Kevin stresses this campaign is not a law yet – and may not come to pass – and, there is no mechanism in place, yet, to have the police write tickets (would have to wait for the Registry of Motor Vehicles).

So, there is nothing formal at this time, but the hope is to have something in place by 2010-11.

134: Safety Video NRHS/Cable Channels:

Pat talked with a young man (a sophomore at NRHS) taking an elective video class at Nauset and she told him about the class at the cable station. The young man’s mother was excited about the program; we’re not sure about the young student.

Judi will contact Cape Cod Tech later (next June) to see if they are getting new/better equipment (to take on a project like a Safety Video).

The committee would love to ask Sarah Eaton (nee: Freeman), but realizes this is not in her job description and she is very busy.

136: Working with Mass Bike/National Park Service:

Judi has no report this month.

138: Coast to Coast Sidewalk:

Alison spoke with John Jannell and George Meserve (Planning Dept.) about writing a CPA grant for a study on the Coast to Coast Sidewalk, and it was determined it would be best to do the work “in-house” (with the help of John Jannell). Alison is meeting with Rick Sigel next week to, basically, come up with a plan on how to tackle this idea, and meeting with John Jannell the week of Thanksgiving.

Old Business:

Pat asked about the “Share the Road” signs (black and yellow signs, found on Brewster roads) and Kevin mentioned that Chief Roy may be willing to share the cost of some signs; however, first, the committee needs to find out how to get them made. Alison questioned how effective the signs were and Kevin indicated they couldn’t hurt. Kevin will check with Chief Roy for more information.

New Business:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Next Meeting is: December 7, 2009 @ 4:00 P.M.

Anne H. Carron, Secretary