



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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March 2, 2009

The March 2, 2009 meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Jim Demaree at 4:05 PM.

Members:

Present: Jim Demaree, Vice Chairperson, Anne Carron, Secretary, Patricia Bradley and Joe Haddad.

Absent: Kevin Higgins, Alison Flynn and Chairperson Judi Weil.

Guests: Jon Fuller, Selectman Liaison, John Jannell, Assistant Town Planner, Resident William Rangnow.

09 APR - 7 PM 3:57

TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

Public Comment

None; however, Vice-Chair Jim introduced Joe Haddad, our newest member, and the committee offered a warm welcome to Joe:

Minutes

The minutes of February 2 were reviewed, and corrected with regards to spelling errors on surnames. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion passed, 3-0-1.

Review and Update Action Items:

115: South Orleans Feasibility Trail Study

John Jannell gave committee members Progress Report #4 from FST which outlined their summary of work since the last Progress Report. John wanted to focus on FST's meeting with the Mass Highway District 5 held on February 6, and his subsequent conference call. Judi and Anne sat in with John on the conference call.

To summarize FST's meeting, in regards to Route 28 options, Mass Highway will not consider a bike and walkway project alone; they will only look at the project in conjunction with improvements to Route 28. It is possible to look at this option further and the first step would be to have a Safety Audit of the Route 28 Corridor. John contacted Priscilla LeClair, at the Commission Offices who administers the Transportation Improvement Program (how towns get Federal and State money to improve State roads) and discovered this whole process takes anywhere from 5 to 10 years. There are numerous, competitive steps along the way, beginning with a PNF (Project Notification Form) which may or may not get accepted, but if it does, then a PRC (Project Review Committee) is filed, and if that is successful, a Project # is assigned by the State. At this point, you lobby for your project, do a design, get funded and built.

During the conference call, Doug, from FST, explained a possible third option that Mass Highway mentioned under "Facility Types". This option would call for Route 28 to have (2) 11-foot lanes and (2) 4-foot shoulders/bike lanes, thereby widening the road

to 30 feet. Since FST had not initially looked at this option before, they indicated they would do so now. Mass Highway does have concerns about the impact to residences and the amount of takings that are required down south, etc.

Mass Highway did indicate they would not stand in the town's way if we use any of the right-of-ways for a bike project, as long as the town pays for it!

It is John's recommendation to go ahead and file a PNF with the District while we have FST on board since the consultants may be able to help us out in case we get a negative determination. John is not sure how long it takes to receive a determination, but he thinks it wouldn't be too long.

FST is planning on another meeting with the committee around the time of our next monthly meeting (April), and holding a public meeting late in April.

Jim expressed concern about the habitat/rare species area and whether we had to stay away from that territory, John stated FST had made a point of staying out of the critical areas, but were aware that even though they had to be cautious, they did not have to stay away from that area.

Jim also wondered about the situation with Eli Rogers Road. Because there are a number of civil issues regarding the road, and it's a private road, although the town is an abutter, the road is not without its challenges. If FST wanted to pursue access to a trail somehow involving this road, town counsel would be asked to sit in on the discussion. It was John's opinion the committee may want to stay more away from this obstacle (Eli Rogers Road) than the rare species issue.

John informed the committee about a parallel (albeit financial) study going on, within the watershed property, by the Renewable Energy Committee. Their study, which is a "concept study", is an economical one of municipal ownership of the single commercial wind turbine installation. (This is a scaled-down version of a prior wind turbine proposal a few years back.) Access to the area would involve using the existing road going up to the treatment plant and over by a clearing the committee calls, Site # 1, creating minimal road construction/minimal improvements. This committee will be going before The Board of Selectmen on March 25, and should this project come to fruition, John sees an opportunity for our committee to take a look at what their access is to see if we may be able to tie into it.

John's final remarks were about a notice he received from the county offices (Mass Executive Office of Transportation) on a list of existing Orleans bikeway routes and unimproved routes, and he stated this would be a chance for the committee to comment on, or share their opinion, with the county; if we wanted to do so, e-mail John or visit him in his office.

137: Roadway Master Plan

The sub-committee of Judi, Jim, Alison and Anne met a few times during the past month to work on a list of roads they feel are of priority in town for future improvements for the enjoyment and safety of pedestrians and/or bicyclists. The sub-committee put together a spread sheet with data we felt would help support, and back up, our choices. Copies of the draft were presented to all members of the committee, and Jim and Anne asked the members to review the spreadsheet, make any corrections or additions to it, and get them back to Anne by the 15th of the month so that the sub-committee can compile everyone's input and present, to the entire committee, the final spreadsheet for approval at our next meeting in April.

103: Accident Log

No Report

106: Safe Routes to School Program

Pat reported receiving a couple of e-mails from Mark Wall (the coordinator of our region) telling her about the program and inviting anyone interested to an "on-line conference" March 19th at 10:00 A.M. Pat will forward the newsletter to the members as well as the invitation. She apprised Assistant Superintendent Gail Briere of the information and Ms. Briere said she would pass along the news at her upcoming meeting with the school principals.

Pat informed the committee there are now about 180 schools signed up for Safe Routes to Schools, so competition is getting stronger.

Pat also reminded the committee May 6th is Massachusetts Safely Walk to School Day.

107: New Access Route at Bay Ridge

No Report

119: International Worker Training/Chamber of Commerce

Jim talked with Ben from Stop and Shop; the store is expecting about 100 "contract workers" this year and another 40 "non-contract workers" (they have 25 beds and 3 homes). The workers will arrive in early May. Police Chief Roy is updating a yearly letter given to the workers, welcoming them and reminding them of some safety tips while they are here. Jim has provided Stop and Shop with one DVD and he has five DVD's left, although they haven't been updated, yet, to the new Massachusetts Bike Laws. Stop

and Shop has about 30-40 helmets left over from last year, and even though they could always use more, they think they will be all set. They plan on getting the flashing, red reflector lights at Snow's Hardware, and they have some bicycles left from last year; however, they need more bikes – and bikes in good condition.

Mr. William Rangnow, a member of The Methodist Church and co-worker of Gail Meyers-Lavin, and a founder of The Housing for International/J-1 Workers, addressed the committee looking for advice and help in any way. In particular, they are looking for bicycles and for any one willing to repair older bikes (Mr. Rangnow has about 20 bikes in his basement which need re-conditioning); they are also seeking residents willing to house the workers during their stay. He invited the committee to attend a meeting at Snow Library on Saturday, March 11th at 10:15 A.M. to learn more about the program

129: Quarterly Update of Current Bike Laws

No report from Kevin, although Jim reiterated that the current bike laws have changed, and John Fallender is working on an overview of what the new laws will mean to the bikers in this area.

131: Coast to Coast

Pat reminded the committee of the May 17th date for Coast to Coast, with a rain date on May 31st. She plans on putting up 2 signs, one at the Skaket Corners billboard and another one at the South Orleans notice board. She hopes to get posters from Thompson's Printing, and display some flyers.

Pat will ask either Kevin or Rob Miceli (from Mass Bike) if they could do the rodeo on May 6th, in conjunction with Safe Routes to School.

Pat expressed dismay about the possibility of having no Port-a-Pottys at Rock Harbor (and Nauset Beach) for our Coast to Coast event. John Fuller suggested the committee send the selectmen a letter asking for the return of the facilities. Pat offered to compose the letter and Jim would sign it. A motion was made, and seconded, to do this, and passed, 4-0-0.

133: Motorist Education

No Report

134: Safety Video NRHS

Pat recommends putting this on hold for now, mainly due to possible budget cuts, but she will still be working on it.

135: New Access Route to Canal Rd. from Stop & Shop Parking Lot

Jim reported he is now on the e-mail list from Ben's (at Stop and Shop) superiors/safety director. The most recent e-mail from the safety director to Ben indicated she was in favor of it, but it is a matter of money, so things remain in limbo.

136: Working with Mass Bike

Jim knows Judi is talking with John Fallender, and she is also talking with Chatham and Harwich with respect to the South Orleans to Orleans Trail.

Old Business

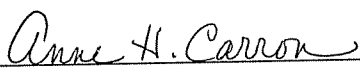
None

New Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 P.M.

Next meeting is: Monday, April 6, at 4:00 P.M.


Anne H. Carron, Secretary