

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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October 5, 2009

The October 5, 2009 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judi Weil at 4:10 PM.

Members:

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

Regrets: Jim Demaree and Joe Haddad.

Absent: Kevin Higgins.

Guests: Jon Fuller, Selectman Liaison, Residents Will Joy, and Rick Siegel (entering about 4:30)

Public Comment:

Mr. Will Joy, a resident of Morgan's Way, off Route 28, asked the question, "When am I going to be able to ride my bike from South Orleans to Orleans center?" Because Mr. Joy lives across the street from the watershed, and he walks it almost every day, and feels it is more scenic, he is in favor of a trail through the watershed.

The committee explained to Mr. Joy that our number one choice was Route 28 because of directness and accessibility to many neighborhood roads; however, because it was unlikely that any plan would be implemented by the State for many years, the committee chose, in the meantime, to explore an alternative route, through the Watershed. The committee has not yet gone before the new Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners to discuss this alternative route, and the committee is aware that currently only passive recreation (walking, jogging, and cross-country skiing) is allowed. At the present, the committee recognizes this route would be deemed a "green trail", but if permission is granted by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, this alternative route could be promoted in conjunction with working on a Route 28 solution.

Mr. Joy thanked the committee for letting him "add his two cents".

Review and Approve Minutes of October 5, 2009 Monthly Meeting:

The minutes of October 5, 2009 were reviewed, corrected, and approved, 4-0-0.

Review and Update Action Items:

115: South Orleans Feasibility Trail Study:

Judi made a presentation before the Community Preservation Committee on October first. She thanked them for the \$40,000.00 grant enabling us to hire FST for the engineering study, and gave them a synopsis of FST's final summary and the committee's deliberation.

137: Roadway Master Plan:

a.) Road Map Designations:

Judi began by showing the committee the map John Jannell worked on to coincide with our Priority Roads list. Added on the map are little diamond markers denoting the more hazardous intersections and dotted, gray lines indicating areas with sidewalks. Then, discussion turned to reviewing the roads, again in regards to sidewalks/bike lanes/multi-paths and classifications.

After spending a considerable amount of time on this item, it was felt John Jannell's help was needed, and Pat suggested trying to arrange a meeting before our next regular meeting to specifically discuss, but not act, on this. Judi would check with John Jannell.

b.) Coast to Coast Sidewalk:

Mr. Rick Siegel, representing the Coast to Coast Sidewalk citizens group, stated he didn't want to offend the committee by letting us know that he recognized our committee is active in many facets of biking/walking, but that his group is focused on just the Coast to Coast Sidewalk, and he would be afraid if he turned the whole idea over to our committee, it may get lost, or it may not get the consistent, undivided attention he feels it should get; however, he would very much appreciate any help we could offer. He wondered if a Feasibility Study should be done. Or, "something like a poor man's feasibility study". His next step would be to go before the Community Preservation Committee to ask for an engineering study of Beach Rd. (from Main St. to Nauset Beach).

Mr. Fuller stated a citizen's group cannot apply to the CPC for a grant; it has to come from a town committee. And, because Beach, West and Rock Harbor Roads are not laid out, this is a big problem (and the town has no money to take land). A third issue is the small coffers available through the CPC (at the moment we do not know how much money is available).

Alison stated she was very interested in writing up a grant (under the CPA) for this project, but, there was confusion about whether a feasibility study is needed, or if the citizen's group should just begin knocking on residents' doors (on Beach Rd.) to ask them how they feel about donating frontage property for a sidewalk. (The feeling of the citizen's group is to do the Coast to Coast Sidewalk in stages, and their initial feeling is to begin with Beach Rd.)

Anne wondered if the citizen's group, along with the help of the Bike/Walkways Committee, could begin by putting an article in The Cape Codder notifying the residents of this idea and get a sense of how they feel about it via feedback. Alison thought too much information may spook owners and that we may want to wait on that avenue until a CPA application is filed. (There is a question about the deadline date for applying for a grant; Mr. Fuller seems to think it is Dec. 1.)

A motion was made to go forward with the paperwork for the CPA grant for a Coast to Coast Sidewalk going from Nauset Beach to the Main Street sidewalk (corner of the Methodist Church). The motion was seconded, and passed, 4-0-0.

Judi told Rick she would let him know who would be on the sub-committee when all the members are back. Alison offered to write up the grant and head up the sub-committee. This new Action Item will go under the title, "Coast to Coast Sidewalk" (#138).

c.) Locust Rd. /Canal Rd.

When Judi and Anne met with John Jannell about the Road Map, Judi mentioned to John about Mr. Sherrill Smith's comments (made during our 09/21/09 meeting) about this intersection. John sent off an e-mail to the Highway Dept. and heard back that they were already aware of the problem, and that this concern was on their list, and they would periodically check on it.

103: Accident Log:

No report

106: Safe Routes to School Program:

Pat still has heard nothing from the Assistant Superintendent at Nauset Regional, but she is still pressing ahead with her various contacts in hopes of making some headway.

119: International Worker Training/Chamber of Commerce:

Due to a death in Jim's family, he was out of town and unable to meet up with his contacts at Stop & Shop or Shaw's, but hopes to do so when he returns home.

Joe passed along the news, through Judi, that someone at the dump (transfer station) offered him 2 bikes that were in pretty good shape, so Joe contacted Mr. Rangnow, and delivered them to him (to use for the International Workers).

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

136: Working With Mass Bike/National Park Service:

Judi attended the meeting at the Park Service where they are in the process of "grouping" items now ("a,b,c,d" –from easy to more difficult). Judi took this opportunity to ask them about the little access route (private property) down by Canal Rd., behind Stop & Shop – and also about the Bayridge (private property, too) that are used as connectors to the bike trail. They were receptive to the idea, but where it goes, nobody knows.

129: Quarterly Update of Current Bike Laws:

No Report

133: Motorist Education:

No Report

134: Safety Video NRHS/Cable Channels:

Pat will contact John Fallender about information regarding producing a video or partaking in a class in case he is interested.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Anne brought in a bicycle/walking article written in the Parade Magazine a few Sundays back mentioning how the Federal Government has targeted 4 cities in the U.S. (with each city getting about \$22 million dollars) to be pilot programs for promoting biking and walking. Anne has hopes to write to this agency to stir up any possibilities.

Pat urges the committee to try to remember the "Moving Together" Conference next fall so that some members can attend. If we find out what date it will be, we will all have more notice to check our schedules.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:54 P.M.

Next Meeting is: November 2, 2009 at 4:00 P.M.

Anne H. Carron, Secretary