



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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February 1, 2010

The February 1, 2010 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judi Weil at 4:03 PM.

Members:

Present: Judi Weil, Chairperson, Jim Demaree, Vice-Chairman, Anne Carron, Secretary, Patricia Bradley, Kevin Higgins, Alison Flynn (arriving late)

Regrets: Joe Haddad

Guests: Jon Fuller, Selectman Liaison

Public Comment:

None

Review/Approve Monthly Minutes:

Minutes of January's meeting are pending Joe's note taking in Anne's absence; we will go over them in April.

103: Accident Log:

Kevin has no report. Jim has asked Kevin if the committee could obtain a list of pedestrian/bicyclist's accidents on a 6-month basis from the Police Department

106: Safe Routes to School Program:

Pat sent our committee an e-mail today on an upcoming seminar (Webinar/conference call) Thursday, March 11, sponsored by the Safe Routes to School Program, if anyone is interested and available to sign up to participate.

Pat had a meeting scheduled with school officials, but it fell through; however, she has contacted Principal Diane Carriero to ask her to contact the school nurse, physical education instructor and PIE (i.e., PTA) to try to generate some interest in this program. Pat has been diligently working on this for years and remains hopeful.

115: South Orleans Feasibility Trail Study:

No Report

119: International Worker Training/Chamber of Commerce:

Jim met with Gail Meyers-Lavin (Program Coordinator for Summer Host International Workers) to hear what her group is doing, and the main thing she is interested in is helmets for the workers. Jim reports that Ms. Meyers-Lavin's concept is to put the helmets, lights for bikes, and the bicycles together as a "package" and have the workers put down a deposit of, say, \$50.00. Jim feels we ought to continue working with this group and understand what their needs are. Jim states the stores are very pleased with her efforts, too.

Kevin mentions he's hoping the helmets are not cut from the State's budget this year, and reminds the committee that there are a lot of stipulations that go along with the helmet program (i.e., can't sell them or make a profit from them, etc.) Kevin will continue to check the Highway Safety memos for further status regarding the availability of helmets.

Judi wondered if Ms. Meyers-Lavin was seeking any grants for her program and Jim indicated she was writing up grants but he did not know what they were for. He sees the Summer Host International Workers Program as growing in the future.

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

On Hold

129: Quarterly Update of Current Bike Laws/

133: Motorist Education:

No report except Kevin says be on the look-out for the new upcoming promotion, "Same Road-Same Rules"

131: Coast to Coast:

Pat updated the committee on the date of the event: Sunday, May 16th; the rain date is Sunday, May 23rd.

Kevin's son, Austin, who is in a course of IT at school and gets to work with lots of technical data, has come up with some ideas for stickers/badges to give to the kids who participate in the Coast to Coast ride, as a sort of a "badge of honor" for completing the ride. Kevin showed us some samples of his creativity and said Austin will tweak them and present them back to the committee in April. The committee asked Kevin to express our thanks to Austin.

134: Safety Video NRHS/Cable Channels:

No report

136: Working with Mass Bike/National Park Service:

Judi reports they have not met

137: Roadway Master Plan:

Anne stated confusion about this project and how she felt it had taken on a life of its own. She outlined that the original plan, in September, 2008, was a list of 13 roads that were of top priority to the committee for making some sort of provision for a multi-use lane for bicyclists/pedestrians, and that the list was to be presented to the Town Administrator, BoS and the Town Highway Manager, with hopes that those roads would be given extra consideration by the Town when doing road projects.

In Dec., 2008, Judi, Alison and Anne came up with criteria for what made a certain road a priority (how heavily traveled was the road; was the road a “connector” or link; how much room on the road/how safe to walk/bike) and the committee then decided to incorporate the town’s Comprehensive Plan into a spreadsheet type of presentation since the more back-up information we could provide, the better. At this time, the Priority Road list expanded to include about 19 roads.

The final draft of the spreadsheet was approved by the members in May, 2009, but around this time, it was suggested by John Jannell to add a map of the roads for visualization when presenting our list to the Town Administrator, BoS, and Highway Manager.

From April, 2009 up to the present, the map has been a work in progress, transforming now into two maps, growing with more statistical information and getting more complicated to understand.

After Anne expressed her confusion, there was much discussion among the members about whether we needed a map, or if our spreadsheet would be enough, and the general feeling of the members was that “less is better”.

However, when Judi asked the committee what they wanted on the map, or if we needed a map, more discussion followed and conversation drifted over to perhaps having a short power point instead of, or in addition with, the map. Judi will try to muddle through the committee’s suggestions.

Jon Fuller said he could schedule a Bos agenda in late April so that both the Highway Manager and the Bike/Walkways Committee would be there at the same time.

Judi would like to keep this as an ongoing project.

138: Coast to Coast Sidewalk:

Alison reported meeting with Rick Sigel, a member representing the Citizen’s Group, and with Mr. Jannell, who sat in to help answer some questions. In regards to the whole Coast to Coast route, Beach Road is the only road not laid out. The Citizen’s Group may petition to put an article on the town warrant to have Beach Road laid out. The committee discussed the process for laying out the road and what steps have to be taken.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Alison is meeting in an executive session’s group of a new parent’s PTC/PIE at the Orleans Elementary School this month and is hopeful this may generate some interest in the Safe Routes to School.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:28

Next Meeting: April 5, 2010 at 4:00 P.M.

Anne H. Carron, Secretary