

Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2016
7PM, Westborough Town Hall

Members Present:

Bruce Tretter, Nancy Siegal, Brendan Hanrahan, Ellen Gugel, Glenn Mcleod, Howard Drake, Ed Beauchemin, Don Burn

Wastewater Treatment section of BWALT

Don spoke about a walk that took place with members of the wastewater treatment board and others. It was on the proposed section of the BWALT on the wastewater treatment plant property. During the walk, it was mentioned that the present width between the fence for the Solar Field, and the fence for the wastewater treatment plant was 12 ft. Present guidelines for trails is for at least 16 ft (12 ft plus some distance for a shoulder). Depending on where funding for the trail is obtained, it may require that the fence be moved.

East Main St to Lyman section of BWALT

Bruce reported that the DPW will store the East Main St resurfacing road shavings till they are ready to use them on the trail.

He is in contact with the vendor to cut the trees, and will work with them on a schedule.

CarMax Easement

Bruce reported that CarMax Easement is moving forward.

The present proposal is a separated lane for the trail on the north side of Gannon Way.

There was some discussion if this was wide enough to meet trail guidelines, and if we may need to separate pedestrians from bikes with a separate sidewalk, in order to qualify for funding.

It was suggested that we could ask CarMax, if, while they are paving their roadway across the trail, if they could pave the steep slope area on the trail.

Other Easements

There was a discussion on what the next steps are for easements, since the Town Meeting passed the easement article.

There were talks with a few landowners (and with the town council at that time) about easements, started around Sep 2014, which could be close to be finalized.

Bruce said he would talk to town officials on how to finalize these.

It was also discussed on how to proceed with talking to landowners that have not been approached yet. It was suggested that Bruce could ask town officials on how we should proceed; and for us to have some type of "easement procedure" from the town.

There was some discussion if there would be addition cost, such as Title Search, to complete the easements for the remaining sections of the trail. There was the suggestion that at the Fall Town meeting we would like to have a town meeting article to request any remaining funds that

may be needed to complete the easements. The idea is that with the easements finalized, it would make it easier to apply, and get grants.

Future Meetings/Walks

It was requested that Don ask leaders of other trails in the area to attend a future meeting, and/or take part in a walk on sections of the proposed trail.

Out Reach

BPAC had a table with displays, and handouts at:

- The Saturday afternoon session of the town meeting
- The YMCA Mission in Motion event

Next events are:

- Spring Fest: May 7
- YMCA Healthy Kids: April 30.

At both events, we are planning to give out children bike helmets, which are being donated. Howard gave Bruce the display board and the handouts. It was mentioned that the QR code for the Blackstone River trail is the only one that points to a no-longer supported web site.

Nancy offered to get Bruce a table for the Spring Fest.

It was suggested that if we needed help at the Spring Fest, that we could ask the HS Student Council/National Honor society. They were helpful last year.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 2 at 7PM.