



South Coast Bikeway Committee Meeting Notes

February 13, 2013 – Dartmouth Town Hall Room 103

Attendees: Adam Recchia, SRPEDD - Julie Kelly, Mass in Motion Fall River – Gail Roderigues, Westport/Voices – Alan Heureux, Dartmouth – Kim Ferreira, New Bedford Mass in Motion – Ken Pottel, Fairhaven – Kirk Coykendall, Marion – Mark Ferreira, New Bedford

Agenda items:

- 1. Minutes from January 2013 meeting-A motion was made to approve the meeting notes for the January meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.**
- 2. Bay State Bike Week Relay Event-** The group discussed the logistics of doing a town by town bike relay event for Bay State Bike Week. A group from each town would ride a route through their town and then the next town would start, etc. Mark and Kirk discussed all the things that the NBW does before a ride, including having their ride coordinator contact police departments and paint directional arrows along the route. After much discussion, it was decided that this group does not have the manpower to pull this off. A ride along the Phoenix Trail and into Mattapoisett was decided upon instead. This ride would be family-friendly and could have spurs off of it down to West Island for the more experienced cyclists. Ken was going to look into planning a route.
- 3. Treasurer/Bank Account/Non-Profit Status-** Ken stated that he could recruit a few people from Fairhaven that might be interested in being a treasurer, however he wasn't sure how it would work since we only have two members from each town. The group agreed that despite this rule, we would be willing to take on more members especially if they were to have important roles such as treasurer.

Ken also stated that Bob was going to meet with a CPA regarding non-profit status, and would get back to us on that.

- 4. Grants Research Subcommittee and others-**The issue of more subcommittees was brought up. Adam stated that he may try to set up an online sign-in at the March 28th meeting so people could sign up for one if interested.

The issue of the rail-with-trail through Dartmouth was brought up again, and it was suggested that perhaps the group form a rail-with-trail subcommittee to coordinate it. Alan reiterated the fact that the town of Dartmouth favors the southerly on-road route, though they do not strictly oppose the rail-with-trail and rather think it is much less feasible, costly, and long term. Adam stated that he didn't think that the rail-with-trail should be taken off the books completely. Julie expressed her concerns about having a family-friendly off-road bike path through Westport and Dartmouth, and therefore that the rail-with-trail idea was important, also mentioning all the work that the group has done regarding the rail-with-trail.

Adam stated that the current MassDOT Rail Division policy is not to allow bike paths within any of their active rail corridors, though this is not in a written directive yet. MBTA-owned lines, however, such as those in Fall River along the shore and one in Seekonk, are taken on a case by case basis with the MBTA's property management company. There was general consensus that the rail-with-trail would be much more doable if the freight operators along it abandoned the line, however Adam stated that this is unlikely given MassDOT's push for more freight rail use instead of truck use. Alan also stated that this committee already approved Dartmouth's southerly route as its official South Coast Bikeway route, and that they are meeting with UMass to discuss tying them into the plan. Adam mentioned that a push for rail-with-trails is not solely to get one built in Dartmouth, but a broader policy push as the South Coast Bikeway also has a potential rail-with-trail in Wareham that MassDOT is prohibiting. The group also discussed other options to get from Fall River to New Bedford, mentioning the Bioreserve and using



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excess Route 88 right-of-way/the inactive portion of the rail line in Westport. The group agreed to discuss this at the March meeting as an agenda item.

5. **Bill DeSantis Rail Line Tour**- Adam is waiting to hear back from Bill.
6. **March 28th Summit Planning**- Ken passed around a checklist for each town to distribute meeting flyers too. The group added the Acushnet River Trail group, the National Park Service, the Appalachian Mountain Bike club and running groups to this list. The group also looked at the flyer that Kim made, and decided to add UMass Sustainability to it.

Kim and Julie briefly discussed their presentation to the Greater Fall River Realtor's Association on February 26th at 6:45pm at the Quequechan Club.

7. **Other Business**-Julie showed the group the banner. We decided to remove the www from the website URL and to get rid of the duplicate picture in the center. The banner was then approved.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.