



# South Coast Bikeway Committee

Meeting notes

June 12, 2013

**Attendees:** Bob Espindola, Fairhaven – Gail Roderigues, Westport–Ken Pottel, Fairhaven – Bonne DeSousa, Mattapoisett – Eileen Allgor, Wareham — B–Jackie Schmidt, SRPEDD – Nancy Bonnel, Voices – Kim Ferriera, New Bedford– Wendy Henderson–Dartmouth

**Guests/members:** Alan Slavin, Wareham Selectman– Sal Pina, Wareham CEDA Director – Wareham Bike Path Committee: Dave Smith, Damon Howard– Wareham Friends: Pam Smith, Louise Paoella, Lois Fountain, Arch Williams, Bill Jennings

1. **Approval of meeting notes for April 2013 meeting .** Notes from the April 18 meeting were approved and accepted into the record

2. **Town & Partners progress/milestone announcements** 10 Minutes

- **Wareham**

Physical Projects: The Onset Street bicycle lanes were completed only a few weeks ago.

Wareham is working on plans for signing the scenic share the road section along West Blvd. Also the Narrows bridge reconstruction is in process and it is planned for bicycle traffic.

Bike Path Planning: There are many phases and many feasible options for each phase. Bike Committee is working on completing the draft master plan that will identify the preferred routes. Completion of the plan will allow the Town to enter into state/federal plan for funding. David Smith will be meeting with Carver on June 26. There has been contact, but no meetings with Marion Bike Path Committee regarding where the path connects between towns. Eileen noted that the issues associated with County Road are very problematic. The Bike Path Committee works closely with the very active Friends group. Community Preservation Committee and the Town provided a 200,000 grant last year, the planning process will determine the most effective way to use this resource. There are both physical improvements and design and planning expenses it could be used on. Eileen noted that the current ongoing survey indicates that 96% % of people who have filled out an on-line survey are in favor of having a multi-use path in Town

- **West Port**

The Town Planner in Westport, Jim Hart, is supportive of completing a section of the bike path at the Fall River/Westport line. In a recent meeting with gail and others he said it was important to take the steps necessary to put the project on the State TIP

3. **Review/discussion of notes from May presentation/conversation with Eric Weiss, Trail Program Coordinator - East Coast Greenway Alliance** The contents of the meeting notes from May 9th were summarized by Bonne and Bob. A motion was made by Bonne and seconded by Kim to approve a letter from SCBC to Eric Weis, East Coast Greenways stating that the SCBC supports the “Old Colony Loop” project and will work ECG to implement it. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **Sub Committee Updates and Proposed Sub Committees**

- **Bylaws Committee** met twice and will provide copies of the rough draft to Nancy and Kim for review. Upon return of the draft and amendments as agreed to, the Draft bylaws will be distributed to the Steering Committee in anticipation of discussing and voting on them at the July meeting. The bylaws were developed using principles outlined in 1)our promotional pamphlet, name the distinction between Community Partners, Planning Partners, Technical Advisors, and a



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new category of membership, Sponsors. 2) The stated goals and objectives worked out in meetings during the fall/winter 2011/12. Ken noted that the bylaws are only the first step in achieving non-profit status. Articles of Incorporation and several forms need to be generated and filed with the state and federal government. Since a major purpose of creating bylaws is to get non-profit status, it was determined that the Committee should take on these duties. A motion to rename the Bylaws Sub-committee was changed to the Non Profit Organization sub Committee was made by ken and seconded by Eileen. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Out reach Committee** has not met since before the May Steering Committee meeting. The priority project is to meet with Don Cuddy at ORRCTV to develop a program of videos that can be distributed to the different Town Cable TV networks and made available on our website. Action: Ken will contact members and initiate activity on this item.
- **Events Committee** There is no one in charge or assigned to the Events Committee. A project needs to be identified and executed, perhaps a simple summer mixer. Resources for such a mixer include Hampton Inn in Fairhaven, and SoCo Magazine who regularly organizes events like these. Also the grant from the United Way specifically identifies bike rides as a means to promote the bikeway and our goal of completing it. Because of the grant Bob believes we have an obligation to organize these rides. It was discussed that if each Town hosts the event in one of the cool and warm weather months, we will achieve 7 or eight rides by next June. (Note: keep it simple: Plan the route, advertise the ride, provide bottled water if needed meet at the designated location, sign a waiver and go for a ride.) It was suggested that Fall River, who regularly hosts Saturday morning rides, could be the first ride in July, which is the beginning of the Grants fiscal year. There are at least two volunteers that signed up to participate in a long term commitment for an Events Committee.
- **Fundraising Committee, Youth Committee, Safety Committee, Rail-with-trail Committee** The fundraising committee has never met, and no one attending knows what the Youth Committee is for. The Safety Committee was suggested because of a very active email discussion about bike safety and education following the May meeting. The "Rail-with-Trail committee" was suggested in order to take discussions about the direct Fall River/New Bedford off-road route out of regular meeting discussions until there is more information about the most feasible way to approach to completing this expensive, highly complex, off-road segment of the SCB. The Rail-with-Trail Committee would be responsible for investigating the issues and reporting back to the committee at a later date or with identifying new members who would like to take on this task. Jackie suggested that this Committee could have a broader charge of "Routing."  
Discussion: It was noted and discussed that we don't have enough active members to staff many sub committees and so we should prioritize which committees will be active and how to distribute active members among them. Bonne stated that we should be recruiting our new members to be staffing these committees, and each Committee should have a stated purpose and plan. Bob Kim and Ken felt that we should not sacrifice opportunities that are in front of us in order to develop a formal plan. It was discussed that each sub-committee should have at least one Steering Committee Member on it.  
Action: Bob will issue a matrix of Committees and ask members to sign up for one or two committees according to their interest and availability.



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Action: Bonne will provide contact information for Volunteers who signed up to be part of a subcommittee so that they can be invited to the next meeting and become active participants. Kim suggested that the structure of future Steering Committee meetings should be an hour of Steering Committee and an hour of sub committees following. This will make it more convenient for Sub-Committees to meet.

## Steering Committee Business

- **SRPEDD Role** Jackie Schmidt said that she will continue to perform the support duties that she has always done: Web site maintenance, Mapping, Technical Assistance, maintenance of record documents and membership/,outreach lists. as well as event support. Eliminating the Secretarial Duties has the important for balancing competing areas of work at SRPEDD.
- **Secretary** Bonne DeSousa will not be available to perform secretary duties for the Month of July, and possibly August. Kim Ferriera was be designated to fill in for Bonne during these months, as necessary. A motion was made by Gail and Seconded by Kim to nominate Bonne DeSousa for the office of secretary, with the understanding that SRPEDD would maintain record Documents and that when Bonne cannot be available other members will be designated by the Board to perform her duties.
- **Mission Statement** A mission statement is a critical component of creating bylaws. The Bylaws Committee has taken a stab at drafting on and presented it to the Steering Committee for Discussion, but not a vote. The proposed Mission statement at this time is " The Mission of the SCBC is to work with local leaders and organizations to build a network of bike routes connecting communities along the South Coast Region"

## Upcoming Events

There are several Town-specific, but regionally important festivals that create great opportunities for public relations. Tens of thousands of people attend festivals like Mattapoisett Harbor Days, Wareham Cranberry Festival, Fairhaven Homecoming. South Coast Bikeway Committee should make use of these venues to promote our cause.

Action: Bonne will make part of the Friends of Mattapoisett Bike Path Booth available for the SouthCoast Bikeway July 20 and 21. Jackie and Kim have volunteered to be there for an hour or two. Other Members who are interested are encouraged to assist.

Action: Wareham will coordinate to include SCBC in their Cranberry Festival Booth

Action: Fairhaven will Coordinate to include SCBC in their Home Coming Days

## Other Events:

Westport has a watershed alliance event June 22. Due to not enough volunteers SCBC will not be represented.

Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride (October- Coalition for Buzzards Bay) This would be a very good opportunity for SCBC to promote our work.

## Other Business

Ken asked for an update on the status of projects on the TIP. Jackie said she will provide it. Bob Stated that it is very important for us to keep track of the projects in line for state and federal funding so that we can advocate for our region as necessary.