



South Coast Bikeway Committee

Meeting Notes

August 8, 2012

Attendees: Bob Espindola, Fairhaven
Eileen Allgor, Wareham
Lois Fountain, Wareham
Adam Recchia, SRPEDD
Wendy Henderson, Dartmouth
Julie Kelly, Mass in Motion Fall River
Alan Heureux, Dartmouth
David Ferreira, New Bedford
Kim Ferreira, New Bedford
Gail Roderigues, Westport

1. Introductions were made.
2. Minutes from the last meeting were not taken.
3. Local Bike Path Committee Reports:
 - a. Julie explained that Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth and New Bedford submitted a grant proposal for South Coast Rail Technical Assistance for a study of biking/walking connections to the four proposed stations from major housing and employment centers.
 - b. David announced an important New Bedford Bicycle Committee meeting on August 15 to discuss their on-road bike facility plan with city officials (DPI, Planning Department, Police Department, etc.) He also announced plans for new access to the New Bedford-Fairhaven Bridge as a part of the JFK Highway MassDOT project underway right now.
 - c. Alan explained that the Dartmouth committee received approval of their proposed South Coast Bikeway route from the Planning Board, and that the Westport Planning Board also approved the concept of the South Coast Bikeway at their July meeting.
 - d. Lois explained that Eileen Allgor will now be the primary contact for Wareham's Bike Committee.
 - e. Bob went over Fairhaven's plans to stripe bike lanes on Scoticut Neck Road (preliminary cost estimate of \$6,000 - \$7,000) as well as look at safety improvements to the Phoenix Trail's crossing of Scoticut Neck Road. He also mentioned a plan to connect new nature trails behind a new elementary school to the Phoenix Trail.
4. Adam discussed MassDOT's new verbal policy on not allowing bike paths along active rail corridors. This was because of unknown issues with the Shining Sea Trail in Falmouth.
5. Adam discussed formalizing this committee with an elected chairperson and designated committee members from each town/organization. He also offered to be in charge of taking meeting notes, writing meeting agendas and continuing to provide technical support to the committee.



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6. Discussion of the committee's email list ensued. Adam has the large list of past summit/bike ride attendees and will mesh this list with Wendy's list and his previous list and then provide this in outlook and excel format to the committee members. David mentioned that Facebook has worked the best for New Bedford in posting meeting/ride notices, etc. Gail recommended that the committee get a Twitter account and that she would set this up. Julie mentioned that we need subcommittees and more members to work on different goals of the committee.
7. Alan discussed Dartmouth's South Coast Bikeway route. It would be an on-road route for now that would travel along Old Westport Road, Lucy Little Road, Chase Road, Russells Mills Road and then down through Padanarum, similar to SRPEDD's South Coast Bikeway Alternate route through Dartmouth. He mentioned that the rail line does not look to be feasible however the town would still consider it as a long term goal. Lengthy discussion ensued about the route and the committee's role in "approving" route changes, since no rules have been set up for the committee. Julie expressed the fact that a more direct route would work better for the South Coast Bikeway, and discussed Brian Pearson's thinking on the matter. Alan mentioned that a direct east-west route in Dartmouth is difficult due to two large watersheds and a lack of east-west corridors other than Route 6 and I-195. Adam's opinion is that the local bike committees should use SRPEDD's plan as a guide and then make minor changes where necessary. This committee would then make sure that the bikeway at town lines matched up and give approval to route changes made by the local committees. David mentioned that this was what New Bedford had done in working with Dartmouth, Fairhaven and SRPEDD to lay out their bike route/South Coast Bikeway route network. Alan and David said it was important to their towns to get something done on the short term instead of waiting for the prospects of using the rail line to come together. Adam mentioned that perhaps the on-road routes could be called "interim routes" for now so as not to preclude the eventual use of the rail line in the future, similar to what the East Coast Greenway does.
8. Gail and Wendy showed UMass's plans for a bikeway through their campus. These plans could match up easily with Dartmouth's plan.
9. Alan brought up making South Coast Bikeway specific signage that could be used. Gail said that this is something Diman High School could do fairly inexpensively.
10. The group decided that at next month's meeting we would elect a chair and lay out the rules of this committee. Adam said he would draft these up and send them out to everyone on the committee for review.
11. The group agreed to pay for the Westport Police detail from our last bike ride in June and then be reimbursed by fund-raising in the town of Westport.