



South Coast Bikeway Committee Meeting Notes

September 12, 2012 – Dartmouth Town Hall Room 315

Attendees: Bob Espindola, Fairhaven - Eileen Allgor, Wareham - Lois Fountain, Wareham - Adam Recchia, SRPEDD - Gerard Koot, Dartmouth - Julie Kelly, Mass in Motion Fall River - Alan Heureux, Dartmouth - David Ferreira, New Bedford - Kim Ferreira, New Bedford Mass in Motion - Gail Roderigues, Westport - Bonne DeSousa, Mattapoisett - Jennifer Bogart, Carver

Adam introduced Jen Bogart to the group as a representative from Carver's Bike Committee.

Agenda items:

1. The meeting notes for the August 8, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Committee membership and roles were discussed. The draft structure, rules and members document that Adam had circulated was reviewed. Adam added in Alan's comments about local committees reviewing road improvement plans and key development proposals in their respective towns.

Alan questioned whether or not the group should continue with promotional activities such as t-shirts and bike rides as a major focus. Julie and the rest of the group said that we should, however we may need extra people to help with those activities. Bob stated that perhaps we should state a year one goal for promotional activity so it is an easier sell.

The group discussed the voting structure of the group. Alan thought that perhaps the non-municipal entities should not have a vote. Adam mentioned that while the YMCA did not care to have a vote, UMass Dartmouth did want a vote. The group agreed that UMass should have a vote. Gerard said that every entity should have a vote, including the YMCA/Voices, Mass in Motion and UMass. It was also decided that any neighboring towns (such as Carver) that would like to join the group can do so with a vote of the committee, and then they would be able to appoint a voting representative to the committee. It was agreed that Gail would approach the Westport Planning or Select Board to be officially sanctioned to be Westport's representative on the committee. Bonne stated that she would seek official approval from the Mattapoisett Bike Committee to serve as the Mattapoisett representative. The rest of the representatives on the committee have already been appointed by their entity. The group agreed to appoint Bob Espindola as our chair, to serve a one year term. Kim Ferreira was appointed as vice-chair.

A motion was made to approve the member and voting structure of the committee as discussed, with one vote per entity, one official member and one alternate member per entity, and the ability for new communities to join the committee with a vote of the committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Community updates were given by each community as follows:
 - a. New Bedford-the city has prioritized its on-road routes and presented them to their DPI. The DPI is already incorporating them into their regular resurfacing and restriping projects.
 - b. Fairhaven-the town has been in touch with MassDOT District 5 about the New Bedford-Fairhaven Bridge, which is undergoing maintenance work. The District agreed to revisit the lane striping on the bridge and possibly stripe four 11' lanes in order to allow for two 4-5' shoulders to better accommodate bicycles. The multi-use path connecting from Route 18 to the south side of the bridge was also confirmed with MassDOT.
 - c. Fall River-the bike committee is looking at links from the Bouthot Bike Path (the Veteran's Memorial Bridge) to Eastern Ave and to the Quequechan River Trail.



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- d. Mattapoisett-the 25% design package for Phase II was submitted months ago and the town is waiting for a public hearing date.
- e. Wareham-the town is looking at beginning their bikeway along Merchants Way, Narrows Road, Minot Ave and Onset Ave instead of County Road. They are working with their Community/Economic Development Director to develop plans for Merchants Way.
- f. Westport-Gail is trying to garner support for a bike committee, and discussed the South Coast Bikeway with a group of friends last month that were very interested. They are going to ride the Phoenix Trail together to get a feel for everything.
- g. Dartmouth-Alan summarized Dartmouth's efforts over the past few months and how they arrived at their proposed South Coast Bikeway route. The route would begin on Old Westport Road and connect to the University's plan to cut through their campus to Chase Road. It would then follow Russells Mills Road, Bakerville Road, Gulf Road, Dartmouth Street and Rogers Street. The route would include two MassDOT reconstruction projects, the Padanarum Causeway and Dartmouth Street, and a town reconstruction project on Rogers Street. The DPW has agreed to striping bike lanes on Old Westport Road and putting up South Coast Bikeway signage.

Julie mentioned that she thought it would be best to have the most direct route between Fall River and New Bedford, one that wouldn't require people to go all the way through the south end of New Bedford. David, Alan and Adam explained that the Dartmouth route is accessible not only from the south end but also from downtown and that no matter where it came into Dartmouth it would still have to go south to Russells Mills Road since there is no crossing of the Paskamansett River between Route 6 and Russells Mills Road.

A motion was made to approve the Dartmouth segment of the South Coast Bikeway, subject to change. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. The group discussed potential South Coast Bikeway signage. David suggested that we shouldn't bother calling the Dartmouth route an "interim" route and should just call everything the "South Coast Bikeway." Alan presented his idea for a South Coast Bikeway sign. The group agreed that our logo should be on it and that we should discuss this at the next meeting so Dartmouth can go ahead and put up signs on their route. We should also discuss this with the East Coast Greenway Alliance to see how they do their signage.
5. The bill for the Westport Police Detail from the June 16, 2012 bike ride was discussed. Gail explained that it was for \$182.00 and that there was a misunderstanding in cancelling it the Friday before. The balance of the bill is \$152.00 since Gail donated \$30.00 to it at a previous event. The group decided that we would try and get the bill forgiven one more time and if that did not work, we would just pay it out of our Narragansett Bay Wheelmen grant. The need to see the details of that grant were discussed, along with possibly having a treasurer and a financial report for each meeting.
6. The meeting was adjourned.