

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee
Camden Town Office, Minutes
May 11, 2016
7:00 pm

Present:

Geoff Scott –Camden
Mac Thomas –Camden
Leni Gronros (minutes) – Rockport
Owen Casas – Rockport Liaison
Robert Davis –Camden
Lynda Clancy –Rockport
Helen Shaw – Rockport
James Francomano – Rockport Development Director
Richard Stetson – Camden
Don White – Camden Select Board Liaison

Absent:

Jane Self – Camden (Alt)
Wyatt McConnell – Camden
Anita Brosius-Scott – Camden
Eliza Haselton –Rockport

Special Guest:

Roger Rittmaster joined us this evening to share a possible project with the Camden Conservation Commission. A trail that would begin on Pearl St, continue to Park, and eventually hooked into the trail at Merry Spring. Philip Carter owns a large section of land the trail would cross, along with probably one other property. The other property, the Bog areas, is owned by the town. Roger stated he would like agreements for trail building to be more permanent than a trail lease. Completing this section would be a step to connect to other trails from Merry Spring. He was here tonight to see if we would like to participate. Discussion ensued on how well the project meets our goals. Roger will come back with more info after discussions with Carter.

Rockport Sidewalk Ordinance:

There was discussion on development and if the sidewalk inventory portion of the ordinance is realistic. It was decided to recommend sidewalk inventory be conducted every 3 years.

Jamie will deliver the ordinance back to the Rockport SB with our recommendations.

MDOT

There was much discussion on the process for working with MDOT. We only just discovered they are planning to work on Pascal and Union Streets in Rockport with little to no notice. We don't understand how to provide input if we're unaware of upcoming projects. For these projects, Jamie pointed out that crosswalks will be moved or removed entirely (one that we know of) due to parking hindering view lines or poor access to sidewalks.

Work Group Reports

Southern Gateway– after the review of last month it is clear that the intersection at Camden St and Rt 1 will be narrowing on Camden Street. It looks like it will be changed to right angles. We need clarification on how the road will be narrowed and if it is with town or project funds.

For this section of Rte 1, it seems like there is or will be a 60' right of way from the center line (Jamie will follow up). This affects the signs and landscaping of some of the Rt 1 businesses and hopefully MDOT will be making them aware of that. When the committee originally worked on a suggested design, we described the construction of a multi use path. Committee members were surprised to learn that the grant was written, it is for a sidewalk. Unfortunate disconnect. We discussed the individual aspects of the plan as described by MDOT. Geoff will put together a memo for MDOT providing feedback from the Committee including: quality of construction, not quantity; are there any reasons why there cannot be an esplanade wherever possible creating a setback from the curbing; is curbing the best solution. MDOT plans to have an updated report back to the towns in the summer. Helen to send her notes to MDOT.

The project is currently scheduled as follows:
October 2016 for a public hearing.
2017 for notes and information
2018 for construction

Camden River Walk – No discussion at this meeting.

Route 90 - the workgroup is setting up a meeting with Theo in Falmouth to look at their project which is very similar in scope to ours.

Route 1 North – we are recommending the project have a 5' shoulder. The question came up on if we have a further role. It was decided we would remain as an advocate for the towns for pathway development. Many kudos to Geoff for getting MDOT down for the meeting last month and pushing for more public information. This got more residents involved and more pressure on MDOT to put this project together as the community would envision.

Camden Sidewalks – did not meet.

Master Plan for Camden – no report

New Items

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm