

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee
Camden Opera House, Minutes
July 3, 2015
7:00 pm

Present:

Geoff Scott –Camden
Mac Thomas –Camden
Lynda Clancy –Rockport
Owen Casas – Rockport
Wyatt McConnell – Camden
Eliza Haselton –Rockport
Leni Gronros (minutes) - Rockport
Ken McKinley - Rockport Select Board Liaison
Richard Stetson - Camden
Robert Davis –Camden
Anita Brosius-Scott - Camden

Absent:

Leonard Lookner – Camden Select Board Liaison
Helen Shaw – Rockport

Guests:

Ciona Ulbricht – Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Ron Howard – Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Jeremy Gabrielson – Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Kitt Parker – Quarry Hill Resident

Action Items from meeting

Absent committee members added to minutes – Leni
Ribbon Cutting for Riverwalk – Owen and Eliza
Forwarding updated sidewalk survey to Lynda in vertical format - Geoff

Guests were introduced. Ciona Ulbricht introduced her team

June Minutes. - Anita asked about clarification on what the People for Bikes Grant was to cover. Explained that it would cover permits, engineering, language for easements, and prep work. We did not receive the grant. Mac explained that the grant cycle is every six months and he will resubmit.

Anita suggested that we list absent committee members in the minutes.

Eliza moved to approve June minutes. Approved unanimously.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT)– Lynda received an email 5mos ago from MCHT looking for our priorities and a copy of the Rockport Pathways Master Plan. MCHT is looking to see where

our priorities overlap and where we can collaborate on funding. Ciona and Jeremy looked at our list and they work with Georges River Land Trust (GRLT) and Coastal Mountain Land Trust (CMLT). They came to our meeting to get a sense of how we are implementing our priorities.

Geoff explained each project's challenges and how we look for collaborations. The Riverwalk is our biggest project presently. How we are taking it in sections and getting grants to complete construction. We successfully got a grant for the Seabright section construction either this fall or next. CMLT is a partner and will hold the easement. Camden Park and Rec is also a partner for maintenance.

We also spoke of the ribbon cutting for the Riverwalk at the tannery property. Other projects mentioned were the Rt90 multiuse path that would go by Erickson Field and how we would need a public information meeting, input from abutters, etc. We need to remain nimble and opportunistic and Ken explained we will jump around as opportunity presents itself.

Geoff explained about letters to consider easements and getting grants. He indicated limited funds for construction but that we haven't identified sources for land purchase. Ken suggested Jeremy meet with town planner.

Geoff asked Ron about his presentation to the Rockport Select Board and how it may apply to paths. Surprised C-R Pathways not asked to participate. Ron explained the timing wasn't right for that yet.

Ron talked about how the Erickson trail will be finished this summer. He told of the evolution of the trail from its beginning in the Teen Ag program and grew to encompass community health and what they could do with the 1-1/2 mile path. Explained the parking situation. Geoff told how the Riverwalk trails were constructed. Lynda asked if their trails could connect to ours and Ron said they could be integrated. Ken talked of the possibilities of parking at the old CRES site.

Owen asked Ron about the Canopy Program at MCHT and if there was any thought given to where the trees are being placed in regards to paths and keeping future possible routes open.

Leni asked if we could have a list of the MCHT trails. Ron explained that they are happy with local folks using the paths but they don't want it publicized as available to a larger audience. Share with the locals only.

Eliza asked about bikes on MCHT paths and Ron said no for now.

Owen asked about land prospects for future project planning. Ciona explained that it proceeds as opportunities present themselves. In the future we can talk as planning goes along.

Geoff asked how they go about getting the necessary easements. Ciona talked about how MCHT makes it work. They use a Trail Lease as an alternative to a traditional easement. Lease is not as permanent as an easement so people are more comfortable granting it.

Ciona said she would share her list of trail fund sources and contacts with us. Both groups pledged to work together.

Geoff Introduced Kitt Parker to the group.

Kitt is currently living at Quarry Hill and can't get too far. She is currently in a powered chair as are many of the residents. Paths to Downtown are not usable for power chairs. Branches, roots, and potholes hinder progress. She has been to the Town already and is sensitive to the costs involved. Lynda will do a story that highlights the problem of mobility around town.

This led to a discussion between Geoff and Anita of advocacy and oversight for sidewalk repair. What mechanism is there? They determined there wasn't one. Geoff suggested inviting public works to attend our meetings quarterly. Geoff also suggested we ask the select boards to suggest mechanism to monitor. Anita suggested advocating for specific lines in public works budgets for specific sidewalk projects.

Ribbon Cutting for the Riverwalk

The agenda was changed so we could discuss the Ribbon cutting for the riverwalk. Eliza and Owen said they have not done much on this yet. Eliza suggested we pick a date and September 19th was agreed upon. 10am-noon. Discussion about vendors, music, select board permission, and a scavenger hunt. Eliza, Owen, and Wyatt to organize.

Rockport Master Plan

No one but Geoff and Lynda had suggestions for changes. Contradictions in the executive summary and goals discussed. Richard pointed out the inconsistency between using Route #s and street names. Plan to be presented to Rockport Select board when done.

Leni to send sidewalk survey. Geoff to change to vertical page orientation. Ken to do wording for reserve fund.

CMLT-Seabright

CMLT can't make a short deadline for a trail easement. Trail license may be a work around.

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm.

Sources of funding courtesy MCHT

A collection of some possible funding sources for trails and pathways,
And/or for their planning:

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/funding/index.html>

<http://www.bikewalkalliance.org/resources/resource-library/search/summary>

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/grants/recreational_trails_program.shtml

<http://www.bikemaine.org/advocacy/community-spokes-toolkit/funding>

<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/trails/funding.cfm>

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/about/commissioners/outdoor_heritage_fund/index.shtml

<http://mainecf.org/Grants/AvailableGrantsDeadlines/CommunityBuildingGrantProgram/tabid/376/Default.aspx>

<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/docs/2014/PlanningChallengeFund.pdf>

<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/pga/tap.htm>

- MaineDOT's competitive grant programs for land-based transportation projects have been folded into a single pot, referred to as TAP – Transportation Alternative Program. Available statewide \$2.3 million, requiring 20% non-federal match. The program has a rolling deadline, but the match needs to be secured by June 30 for funding decisions announced in January. (to give a sense of timeframe, at the earliest any project would be submitted June 2016, funding announce January 2017, work start summer 2017).
- The other programs mentioned on the website are RTP, and getting the project funded through the regular MaineDOT biennial work plan (which usually involves coordination with regional planning commission). The website also mentions local funding through locally issued bonds or TIF funds as possible sources.