

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee  
Camden Town Office, Minutes  
Feb 17, 2011  
7:00 pm

Present: Geoff Scott (minutes), Richard Stetson, John Anders, Lisa Lattes, Anita Brosius-Scott, Helen Shaw

Guest: Ron Howard, Aldemere Farms

- Minutes from Jan approved as written
- New agenda items – none
- Aldemere Farms – general presentation by Ron about history of pedestrian access related to the Farm

One of the first things the farm did was to consider public access, along with the farming operations. Hired a HS student to do a count in 2000 of peds/ ~ 200 people walked, jogged, bicycled past each day. Held a series of public forums for public access – how to manage. Tree lined avenue look valued highly. Farm participated in Tree City USA with Camden. Part of farm is in Camden. Public access along the road, the tree line, and two public trails. One to the ledges on Lilly Pond. And another that goes down to the shore. Already enough tour buses along the street so didn't want to make Aldemere more of a destination for that reason you see no signs pointing to the Farm nor are the trails publicized so more of a local resource. Trails not well marked – but the Farm does make known to local folks that trails are available and public. Farm still participates in coastal cleanup with school groups and moonlight skis. Because of Chatfield restrictions on the property can't put in surfaced parking where it doesn't already exist. About 10 years ago discussions about and the restrictions put on the Farm include no path wider than 3 ft and paving is not permitted. But Ron is pretty sure that this limitation does not apply to right of way.

**Action** – Lisa will speak to Steve B. how wide the ROW to get an idea how wide an area there would be for a path along the road, but outside constraints of the easement.

Having a stone dust path against the road – people will be parking along it.

MCHT owns the farm. State of Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife holds the easement. Ron knows who the contact is when/if we would need to get approval or opinion related to a path.

Ron supports the idea of moving the road over to make space at the ledge and the cedar trees.

Ron's concerns:

- Major concern is how to construct a path without cars trying to park on it.
  - Trees are important – can the construction be done without injuring the trees?
  - Moving the fence means lost pasture fence – but not a big deal.
  - If it weren't for public safety Ron would say leave it as it is.
  - Having the farm right to the roadside is a big benefit and would not like to see that go away. Maintaining the rural character is a high desire. If we construct something make it look like it belongs.
  - Back when the issue of the trees came up – they wanted to remove the trees for safety.
- Erickson Farms –  
93 acres. Tax maps show two parcels, but they are considered one. Where Farmer's Fare is and where Marita Wheaton's property originally was part of the original farm – they are both privately owned by those folks.

Haying and gardening going on – some youth programs. Number of the garden beds given to PTA for raising elementary school lunches. But that's moved back to the elementary school. So that program is over.

Standing on Rte 90 big hay field to the left – the soil is much better. This is where the teen agriculture program has been working. That garden is hidden from the road. That's the area that will be expanded. Teens are employees – they work for MCHT. They set up their own biz plan and who they will sell to. A couple from Union, Rockport and Camden – all drive or car pool to the Farm. These kids also work(ed) at Aldemere.

It would be worth considering a collaboration with CMLT bridging across some of the properties up to Beech Hill. Ron thinks that would be an interesting project. Farm owns 60 acres of woodland off of Route 90. Woodland extends behind the office buildings behind those office buildings. The property goes all the way down to the houses at the end of the cul de sac subdivision across from CHRHS. On the Beech Hill side the subdivision that's just going in also ends up abutting the Erikson Farm.

The Farm hasn't done anything in the woodlands at all. Farm just got a natural resource report – or baseline report. The Farm is open to having discussions of developing trails in the woods. HS XC running team has been using the hayfield path for hill work. This team jogs across Rte 90. Becky Flanagan brought kids down running. Talking to XC Ski team about skiing some of the trails.

Talking about planting a Chestnut grove.

The youth teen ag program seems like a good foundation for programming. Did put a ten car graveled parking lot in fall 2010.

Deal killer for elementary school is the kids have to take a bus to programs at the Erickson. Occasionally this has actually occurred. For CHRHS it's a bit easier. Do a lot of after school programs with Youth Links and STAR programs.

There are also easements on Erickson Farm property. Held by US Dept of Agriculture and MCHT. Most of property falls under the easement.

- Gateway I – Anita serves on the Transit Subcommittee. There have been two facilitated discussions to date with goal of framing up the framework for a professional consultant to take in hand to come up with recommendations. This work is for everything but cars. By March a draft framework will be given to the Subcommittee for review/approval. Then it will move up to the next level for approval and finally to DOT – which could easily take 6 months. Will likely involve a public transport system. Anita's focus is starting a van service that carries bicycles. That would carry bicycles from Rockland to Belfast.
- Rawson Ave 5.5 acre property is now listed at \$47K. Hold up is how many houses can be built on property. New angle to be looked at. Anita thinks the Town should have an interest in the property as an affordable housing oppty. If Habitat or the Affordable Housing Group would show some interest, if they bought, would the Town pay for the survey for how many houses could be built. High priorities – in fill, pathway, affordable housing. All point to this property.

Adjourn – 9 pm

Next meeting - Mar 10 **Action Item** – Geoff to figure out if we should be at the Budget committee in Camden for support instead.