

City of Bath Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Minutes
March 18, 2015

Present: (Committee) Kevin Shute, Chair, Maria Newcomb, Robert McChesney, Jeanie Parker, John Swenson, Sharon Wilbraham, Travis Wolfel
(Ex officio) Steve Balboni, Andrew Deci

Meeting came to order at 3:08. The minutes from February 18 were amended somewhat under Ace Team to reflect that Robert had reported receiving a survey for the ACE Team which he was being asked to fill out without knowing the party soliciting the survey. Colleen said she would look into it. The minutes were then approved as amended.

Kevin's report: Two issues: 1) Bike-to-Work Week (May 11-16) within National Bike Month (May) and 2) maintaining Bath's status as a Bicycle Friendly Community (a designation given by the League of American Bicyclists). Kevin suggested the committee sponsor a family fun ride during that week and after discussion it was thought that a Sunday would be best which if it were during that week would be May 17 since May is Mother's Day. Carolyn Lockwood (Director, Main Street Bath) had expressed in cooperating. There was some discussion of prizes for the family fun ride and Patagonia and LL Bean were raised as possibilities though Sharon thought Bean had their own activities for Bike-to-Work week. (Kevin and Robert will follow up.)

Concerning Bicycle Friendly Community (BCF) status, which comes up for renewal in two years, Kevin showed an outline of what the League of American Bicyclists expects in a successful application for renewal. These are the five "E-s" (engineering, education, enforcement, evaluation, and encouragement). We are probably weakest in the area of education though we have certified League Cycle Instructors (Bob Bruce, Sharon Wilbraham) in the community and this is an area where the committee could probably take some steps. Robert spoke about the "Get Back on Your Bike" and "Keep on Biking" courses and the critical need for good publicity in order to attract students. The first year (2012) the local papers provided plenty of publicity because the subject was novel. In addition the Y provided good support in a person who was doing publicity for the Y at the time. Things fell off the second year (2013) because the local papers weren't interested in the subject and there were no funds for taking out advertisements. The courses were not held in 2014. Robert is willing to revive them again this year (with Bob Bruce, instructor, and Zach Pilgrim, as mechanic) if he can get publicity. Also he raised the possibility of a one-session "What Bike Is Right For Me" before. Kevin and Robert will follow up. On education someone noted that the new 3-foot signs are a form of education and would help the application as would the North Street road project. Andrew (or Steve?) noted that BCTV is a place where some public service announcements (Bicycle Coalition of Maine produced two a few years back) could be run and add to the education component. If Council adopts a "Complete Streets" resolution this would also help. There was some question as to whether the Wellness Map of Bath had bike routes and if anyone knows perhaps they could find a copy and report at the next meeting.

On Complete Streets Kevin reported on a meeting that Andrew, Peter, Robert and he attended on preparing to present the measure to City Council as part of the regular public meeting April 1st at 6:00 PM. Andrew will provide some talking points and all members of the committee are urged to attend and support passage. The staff (planning and public works) are on board and the North Street project will be the poster child.

Andrew reported on various projects underway and new funds received.

1. North Street: the bid specs include an ADA compliant gravel path on the south side of the street. (Originally the sidewalk there would be eliminated.) If the bids come in over budget it will be eliminated. If not then it will be part of the project.
2. On the Commercial Street sidewalk etc. the holdup is with the state now. The City is prepared to move ahead as soon as the state comes through with its share.
3. The Oak Grove (& Judkins?) sidewalk. In a conversation with Dan Stewart and Patrick (?) his replacement at Maine Department of Transportation, it turned out there was money for the state to fund the sidewalk 100%.