

Bath Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Minutes
June 15, 2016

In attendance: Kevin Shute, chair; Robert McChesney, acting recording scribe; Tyerry Nordmann, John Swenson, Travis Wolfel, Sharon Wilbraham, Andrew Deci, Mike Field, Colleen Fuller, Steve Balboni

The meeting was called to order at about 3:00 PM. There was a call for approving the May minutes but in light of some distracting remarks it wasn't done. Absence of objection may be taken as assent.

Kevin reported that there has been no interest shown yet by bath citizens in volunteering for the two vacancies on the committee. Get Back On Your Bike Class

Robert and Kevin reported on the Get Back on Your Bike course which is scheduled to be held at the Bath Y gym at BNAS. Thanks to the generosity of Access Health there is money for advertising. (The first ad will appear in the Coastal Journal June 24). Bob Bruce, an LCI, will teach the class. Lee Huston of Center Street Cycles has volunteered his services for a bike repair clinic.

Kevin reported that he had spoken with Mrs. Leeman of North Street and told her of the committee's recommendation to Council that public works take remedial action on the water problem that affects here and that a proper sidewalks for the south side of North Street will be part of the specs when bids are sought for the remaining portion of North Street. No further action by Council is expected.

Main Street Bath and Access Health are going forward with two Open Streets events in Bath, one scheduled for two Sundays, July 24th and August 28.

The BIW Pedestrian Safety Study has led to meetings between city officials, DOT and BIW with recommendations for re-painting faded crosswalks (in progress). Also more pedestrian signage and possible reconfiguring of parking areas for workers, better channelizing of workers crossing Leeman Highway, and changes to the access-egress lanes of the Post Office. Andrew said the state was involved in reviewing all the traffic patterns, pedestrian patterns, and parking vehicle volumes. Travis raised the useful point that the vans (and buses?) in the morning stop on the side of the street opposite BIW and so rider-workers have to cross the street. Mike noted that the problem is the great amount of traffic generated by shift changes but there was some thought that the congestion at south gate was not all a bad thing for slowing traffic.

Kevin reported on Bike Safety Day and the Rodeo. 130 helmets were given out and kudos to Access Health for the healthy food available—apples, oranges, bananas—and to the Merrymeeting Wheelers Bicycle Club for organizing the rodeo and staffing it with club members. Also thanks to crew members of the *Michael Mansoor* for volunteering to help run the rodeo. To the question, “who paid for the helmets?” Mike said that it was

VIPS (Volunteers in Policing Service?) who raised the money for the helmets. Sharon noted that they were particularly good helmets and easy to adjust.

On crosswalk placement, Travis circulated a sketch map of an appropriate place for a crosswalk on High Street with accompanying locations for signage for the Lily Pond trail crosswalk. Kevin raised issue of the crosswalk and traffic control at Fisher-Mitchell. Robert thought that the southern warning flasher might not be as visible as the northern one. Will be checked out by Mike. Andrew urged everyone to go look at the thermoplastic inlays used experimentally on North Street to see how they are holding up and whether the expense involved makes sense.

Then there was discussion of DOT's plans for the Congress Street overpass. Terry noted the problem of the bridge with, among other scenarios, people disembarking from the Concord Lines bus at Mail It For You and then crossing on foot over to housing on the other side of Route One. The height of the railing is so low that anyone trying to walk on the curbing could easily pitch over onto the roadway below. Moreover, as others noted, the good possibility that Wing Farm will be the site of a new high school increases the likelihood of foot traffic over that bridge.

Kevin raised again the issue of the need to revise the bicycle plan and called for volunteers. Andrew, Travis, Kevin, and Robert volunteered to form a subcommittee. Kevin had a copy of the Brunswick plan (of nine or ten years ago) which seemed too technical and detailed for Bath. Andrew stressed the need for a more visionary plan, to address what sorts of thing should be incorporated in land use law in the way of provisions for bicycles, bicycle parking for example, or bike lanes or striped shoulders. It was agreed that everyone would read over the current plan and make any comments to members of the subcommittee.

Steve was thanked for updating the Committee website

Kevin noted the public hearing on the Leeman Highway sidewalk project for 6:00 PM June 15 at City hall and Andrew reported on what DOT was likely to say.

Finally, by consent, the next meeting will be held August 17.