

City of Bath Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes

August 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. In attendance were Kevin Shute, chair, Steve Balboni, Andrew Deci, Robert McChesney, John Swenson, Carl Zeis. Minutes were approved.

1. In the first order of business, the committee welcomed Carl Zeis as a new member. Carl lives at the south end of Washington Street.
2. The time of future meetings of the committee was changed to 4:00 PM on the third Wednesday of every month.
3. With regard to the ongoing issue of the south side foot path along North Street between Five Corners and High Street, Andrew told the committee that bids on paving came in below estimate and there was some thought that perhaps the surplus might be used to pave the south side footpath now rather than wait until 2018. The committee discussed letters exchanged by Mrs. Leeman of North Street and Peter Owen, Director of Public Works on the subject. In its June meeting the committee had recommended to City Council that the path be paved and the cost for it (estimated at \$50,000) be part of the specifications for bids on the North Street extension project (continuing the North Street improvements from High Street to Washington) slated for 2018. The committee endorsed Peter's argument in his letter that paving the path now involved far more work than just the cost of the asphalt and that the surplus funds were inadequate to cover the whole cost. Some disagreement was voiced as to his contention that the subject was no longer the business of the committee since it had made its recommendation to City Council that the work await the scheduled North Street extension project in 2018.
4. Kevin and Andrew reported that work on the new Bike Plan was ongoing and further meetings would be held by the subcommittee of Kevin, Robert, Travis Wolfel, and Andrew.
5. Open Streets. Although the originally scheduled event for July 24 did not take place, there are now two events scheduled for August 28 and September 25. Andrew distributed beautifully designed and executed posters and flyers for the events which he asked members to distribute and a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer at the event.
6. In response to Andrew's request that members look at the plastic inlay for street markings (crosswalks) used on the North Street project, Robert said that the ones he had seen looked fine except for the crosswalk at Keel Street where a small piece of the inlay had broken out. Asked if DOT will be using the inlay on the viaduct project Andrew said they had been asked and said no. He briefed us on the DOT's plans for the viaduct-Leeman Highway sidewalks-High Street on-ramp complex of projects to take place 2016-2017. Ultimately the north side sidewalk on Leeman will be continuous (with a crosswalk on High) from Halcyon Yarn to Burger King.

7. Discussing sidewalks, someone raised the question “Who has the final sidewalk priority list? The answer seemed to be Peter. Kevin said he would ask Peter for a copy. Carl asked in thought had been given to a sidewalk connecting the Winnegance area to the Webber-Washington sidewalk. Some discussion then followed about the problems of a sidewalk in that area and the need for residents there to make their sentiments known if they really wanted a sidewalk.

8. Kevin reported on Peter’s plans for paving in the upcoming weeks.

Washington Street from Bowery to York

Robinson Street (entire)

Edwards Street (Washington to Dummer)

Whiskeag (from the golf course to North Bath Road)

Section of Old Brunswick Road from Oak Grove to Judkins

9. In the case of the Old Brunswick Road project, the committee felt that given the expanse of asphalt in that area, there was a great opportunity to re-design the striping to allow for all the following: the existing parking and the two travel lanes and be able to add a bike lane on both sides. This is particularly important given the presence of Bath Middle School and Bath Youth Meetinghouse and Skate Park on this section of the road and the pedestrian and bicycle traffic they generate. Carl, Andrew, Kevin, and Robert volunteered to meet on Wednesday August 24 at 3:00 in the Middle School Parking lot to take measurements of the roadway and see what can be done.

10. Robert raised the question, particularly related to the problem of speeding on Richardson and Washington (from BIW to Webber), of whether this fell within the purview of the Committee. He was informed that this is really the area of the Parking and Transportation Committee which usually meets every other month or as needed. The chair is Mari Eosco. The issue of roadway widths and speeding was also raised (again!) and Robert opined that Peter’s standard is an 11-foot roadway width from the center of the road to the edge line. Accounting for the width of one yellow line this actually works out to a 10.5 foot roadway width. Steve suggested we ask Peter for his data and information on roadway widths and posted speeds.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert McChesney, acting recording secretary