

28FEB2018

City of Bath Bike and Pedestrian Committee
Regular Meeting

Attendees:

Ben Averill (City Planning)
Committee Members
Carl Zeiss
Dan Couture (BPD)
Travis Wolfel
Robert McChesney
Luke Liener (Bath PW)
John Swenson
Robert McChesney
Kevin Shute
Dave Comeau (Council)
Anne Dunham (Recorder)

Community member: Mark Wheeler

Bicycle Coalition of Maine Community Coordinator: Angela King

1. Meeting called to order at 1600. Minutes from the December meeting were informally accepted.
2. Angela King spoke, regarding scheduling a follow up meeting to the 2017 site survey. She noted that some of her job included coordination between different groups in a given area. She stated that this provides better outcomes than a more fragmented organizational structure.
Committee members noted the lack of report from May 2017 visit. Ms. King stated that the typical process was that the report would be developed by Jim Tasse, then sent to the DoT for review, and then to the City. She was not sure where the report pursuant to Bath was in that process. In view of this, there was a Q&A on the activities of the BCoM.
 - a. From R. McChesney (RM) What is BCoM doing on the legislative process?
 - b. Ms. King noted work on the Traffic Safety Education Act. That item has gone to the legislature but is reported to have a fiscal note attached to it. The intent of the fiscal note is to reduce the probability of success for the bill. Opposition is generally from those who do not believe that the school has a role in this area of education. There is a hope that the fiscal note will be removed in the future. The cost associated with the note is \$62,000. BCoM is working with DoT to have forums on safer walking. Some of this is funded through federal funds tied to an increase in pedestrian fatalities.
 - c. From RM: What is the BCoM focus at DoT? Response: Has there been a "Imagine People Here" seminar in Bath. RM: Requested, no response. Intention is to follow up and see what might be available for installation

on Lincoln Street. AK: Noted that this had been done in Saco, including street bumpouts to improve crosswalks and calm traffic.

- d. From RM: Are there intentions for paved shoulders in rural areas? Current policy is to only add shoulders during new construction, and repave shoulders only every other paving cycle. Alternative would be to narrow the roadway and create a shoulder. It would be good to see BCoM work to encourage activity like this with DoT. AK: DoT will generally not vary from standard without a specific request from the town. RM: Noted several occasions in Arrowsic and Woolwich where this did not occur even with a request from the town.
 - e. RM: Discussions of pedestrian safety with no funding / action appears very contradictory. Where BCoM can press DoT, this would be very useful. Note that Arrowsic and Woolwich depend heavily on DoT for road maintenance.
 - f. AK: Noted that in Yarmouth community activity – and a letter writing campaign – modified the design of at least some of four bridges being repaired. This resulted in improvements to the pedestrian and bicycling facilities. This required seven months to accomplish.
 - g. From Mark Wheeler (MW): Is there interest in putting out East Coast Greenway signs in Augusta? Kevin Shute (KS) noted that the state does some, and the remainder are installed by the towns. Where these are not installed, it does seem to be leaving economic improvements behind.
 - h. AK: Questioned whether or not closing a peninsula would be practically achievable. Consensus was that it would not be.
 - i. AK: Noted that there are other group projects, such as bike share in Norway, Machias, and Ogunquit. Norway provides locks and a card; bike share similar to library membership. Organized through ecology based economy center. Unintended positive consequences realized. Machias started bike share based upon individual action at the airport. No fee. Businesses maintain bike racks and are part of the program. Ogunquit looking at a fee-based system. They are currently working through statutory difficulties. Noted that opportunity to ride to beach a draw for bikes.
 - j. Anne Dunham – Noted cruise ship presence at semi-remote location from City center. RM – There is a possible opportunity to increase bike ridership and improve accessibility for visitors to the City center.
 - k. KS – Noted letter sent to principals in 2017 to determine interest in safety curriculum. Response from Bath very low. Is this consistent with remainder of state? AK: Will check. Noted reduction in Norway by one school bus due to walking school bus program.
 - l. AK: What is the committee involvement in the Capital to Coast trail. From Ben Averill, some discussions with Brunswick and Topsham, still working to bring West Bath to the table. AK: Currently gap in the eastern trail is being closed, which required millions of dollars to complete. Completion of this project may allow funding of another.
3. Several meetings coming forward:

- a. 7 March, 1800 – Presentation of Bike / Pedestrian Plan at City Hall
 - b. 14 March, 1730 – Richardson / Western Ave traffic calming forum. A propos of this discussion, noted that some roads are state aid, limiting the authority that the City has to configure.
 - c. 28 February – Discussion of sidewalks on Oak Grove and Judkins Ave.
4. Bicycle Council notice provided by Patrick Adams to determine interest.
5. Next meeting scheduled for 21 March; solicitation for agenda items.
6. Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.