

## **COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE MINUTES November 13, 2017 3:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Berta Geller, Rachel Baumrin, Tony Omer, Tony Higgins, Caitlin Jones, Jane Rossi

**ALSO PRESENT:** Bill Venio

Berta opened the meeting at 3:00.

### **•Discussion with Bill Venio on pathways:**

Berta said that at our last meeting the committee had planned to discuss our top 5 “priorities” and to meet with Bill Venio. She said that the priorities list will be tabled until the next meeting. Bill distributed two handouts which are attached hereto.

Berta explained that Bill is the transportation planner with the Martha’s Vineyard Commission. She said that it would be wonderful if the MVC could hire someone that is an engineer to work on various things. Bill informed the board that the MVC is currently working on becoming eligible for some grant money for things such as the hiring of an engineer.

The committee discussed the shared use pathways in West Tisbury. Bill explained that the town wanted walkways. They began laying the pathways around the Mixed Business District and expanded from there. They were paid for by the town, and they didn’t want them to be used as bike paths so they are narrow. Steve Berlucci was the engineer, they had to be a certain minimum width, and because they would build with town money, they can be stripped and re-surfaced. Billy Haynes was the chairman of the committee that was formed to get the pathways built. There are easements in certain areas. Tony O. asked if any engineering has been done around the Skiff Avenue area. Bill said he wasn’t sure but would check. Rachel asked if there was a path that leads to the Tisbury Landfill. Tony H said there are various areas where there is a 40 foot right of way, but it “crisscrosses.” He pointed out that down island is pretty well covered bike path wise, but up island is not. Bill said that about 10 years ago the MVC conducted a study to look at connecting the pathways. He said that Stuart Fuller, Highway Superintendent in Edgartown, moved the road in Katama to create the Katama bike path which is wide and safe. Bill said that it would probably make the most sense to consider slowing traffic in West Tisbury.

Berta asked Bill about special ways and if it would be possible to improve them for off road cycling. Bill explained that the special ways are regulated under the DCPC (district of critical planning). Driveways have to be at least 1000 feet apart, which protects the visual character. However, bike and multi-use path might be difficult to install. Special ways cannot be paved over, blocked or planted on. They are basically reserved for walking biking and horseback riding. Bill said they he would check to see if hardener could be put down on them. Tony H said the fire lanes could be improved for cycling. Bill said that the State maintains the state forest bike paths. The town would have to maintain its own pathways.

Caitlin Jones said she would like to see more signage. She asked if there were state symbols available and she was told there are. The committee discussed Sharo’s and determined that they would only work on roads that have 35 mph speed limits or less. Rachel suggested that the public have something to review on the ferry when coming to the island. Bill suggested that there could be a 5 minute clip on the tv.

Tony O asked if a bike path could extend from Tisbury to Old County Road. Bill said that there had been something in the works but it had fallen through due to a lack of funding. West Tisbury didn’t want to inquire about more funding so Tisbury dropped it.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Rossi

*Betsy Gella* 12/14/17