

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE MINUTES December 10, 2021, 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Susan Silk, Rachel Baumrin, Sara Rosenthal, Oliver Osnoss.

ALSO PRESENT: Jane Rossi, Dan Doyle and Richard Dewitt.

ABSENT: Tony Omer, Tony Higgins.

Susan opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

DISCUSSION:

Bike Safety discussion with Richard DeWitt:

Richard began by mentioning an editorial in the paper regarding shared use paths and the need for their repair. He explained that he has been a resident of the island since 2018 and is on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPAC) and the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), both affiliated with the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC).

Regarding the plan Susan drafted offering safety measures and educational strategies island wide for pedestrians travelling our roads recreationally, he said the ideas are badly needed. He said we have not done a good job of connecting with town officials. He said we need to work with the Steamship Authority and we should be taking care of our infrastructure.

Richard explained that a campaign concept is badly needed. We have 37 miles of paved shared use paths on the island, and we need to get the word out that they are there. He said he has added some items to Susan's plan. Susan said a communication plan is necessary for cyclists to know what they are supposed to do and where they can travel. She wondered if the MVC will take this on.

Richard pointed out that we have bike route maps but they need updating and the Steamship Authority has maps but they are not accurate. Rachel stated the maps should all be digital. She stressed that we should be making regular public service announcements on the radio. Jane said she felt it was important to remind the public regularly that our roads are shared and people need to be mindful that there are cyclists in the road. Richard pointed out the need for signage and explained that in Edgartown, the routes are color coded from the center of town to the shared sup's and it works.

Susan said there should be a meeting shared by the MVC, joined by island town representatives to say we need to get this list taken care of and it needs to be date specific. Richard agreed. Susan said the plan needs to be tackled in phases with phase one being updating, and phase two should be the bike piece. She stated there may need to be a sub-committee formed by the MVC.

Richard informed the committee that there will be a bike rodeo held at the high school in the spring. Rachel suggested that perhaps some of the money raised from the rodeo could go toward bumper stickers advertising the need to be cautious. He suggested the Committee attend the next Joint Transportation Committee and present Susan's proposal. He pointed out that from the center of Edgartown there are bike route signs to get to the shared use paths which is beneficial.

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Discussion with Dan Doyle:

Dan wanted to discuss the plans for the scope of work proposed for the North Tisbury Bridge which he said he should have within 5 or 6 weeks. He said the engineering will need to be completed before Mass DOT comes for a site visit and there are two options; there can be a 3-D sketch of a water color draft of what the bridge will look like. He said that the bridge is either going to have to be in complete compliance with the state regulations or two bike bridges can be installed spanning the brook but off setting the bridge. Jane said she is hoping Mass DOT will be willing to work with us rather than insisting the bridge become a massive structure that isn't in keeping with the towns character.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Rossi

Approved on January 20, 2022