



Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

At 3:30 PM

Via ZOOM

MINUTES

Members Present: Ian Golding (Chair, left meeting at 4:18PM after item 2A), RJ Turcotte (Vice Chair, served as Chair at 4:18 for item 2B), Edwin Claflin, Michel Kremer (left the meeting at 4:28PM after item 2B), John Mynttinen, Joseph Topham, Laura Walters

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Burns

Others Present: Art Gasbarro, Chief Jody Kasper, Amy Eldridge

1. Administrative Items

- a) Call to order
 - The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:35PM
- b) Establishment of a Quorum
 - The Chair declared a quorum present
- c) Approval of Agenda
 - There was unanimous approval of the agenda by rollcall vote
- d) Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2024
 - Ian G requested that item 2D be corrected to say Ian G would provide photographs of intersection of concern along the four corridors initially reviewed.
 - Motion to approve by Edwin C. There was unanimous approval of the agenda by rollcall vote. RJ T and Michel K abstained.

2. Action and Discussion

- a) Status of path stop sign removal
 - Ian G explained the background for this topic, clarified the intent for the removal of path stop signs from some intersections, and reviewed regulations for vehicles to top exiting a driveway
 - Jody K mentioned a concern with conflict with state law.
 - Mike B and Ian G discussed a conflict of whether BPAC had previously recommended locations for stop sign removals.

- Mike B shared a presentation of conflicts between Traffic Safety and BPAC recommendations for stops signs at path crossings. Traffic Safety recommendations is to keep stops signs for path approaches with improved marking of crossings and installing stop signs for vehicles entering an intersection prior to the path crossing and the intersection, if they are missing. The BPAC recommendation is to remove path stop signs.
- Ian G suggested that BPAC review locations of concern for removal of minor stop signs.
- Michel K suggested that based on the local bylaw bicyclists have the right of way.
- Edwin C suggested that the concern is bicyclists not following any stop sign and that the stop sign at the end of paths, then bicyclists should stop before entering the roadway.
- RJ T asked about future paths that would be built using state funding.
- Mike B responded that the new path on the north side of Milestone Rd between Monomoy Rd and Polpis Rd, and the Wauwinet Rd path, are the only paths that would use state and federal funding.
- Laura W mentioned the improved crosswalk markings would help and asked about a standard that would be used.
- Mike B responded that green markings can be used for bicycle facilities, the white parallel bars could be used in rural areas instead of the “piano key” crosswalks.
- Edwin C asked about standards for public and private roads that distinguish them as a major route.
- Mike B responded that the question was also asked by Traffic Safety and why their recommendation was to exercise an abundance of caution at crossings.
- RJ T suggested that not every intersection can be major and will review the spreadsheet of locations.
- Ian G suggested that the spreadsheets and photographs be reviewed by BPAC members prior to the next meeting.
- Motion made by RJ T seconded by Michel K to review the locations and photographs to determine if locations are major or minor and if stops signs could be removed.
- The motion was approved unanimously.
- Ian G left the meeting at 4:18PM.

b) Proposed bylaw amendment for path speed limit and 3-bike class regulations

- Joe T summarized status of his warrant article. Town Counsel has made some suggestive edits to the warrant article. He also mentioned signage and video messaging that would help share rules of the road and improve courtesy on paths.
- Edwin C and Michel K had a concern with the language about passing at 5MPH.
- Joe T mentioned that language is being revised for bicyclists and walkers.
- No action taken
- Michel K left the meeting at 4:28PM.

c) Proposed driveway crossing of path at 62/64 Sankaty Road

- Art G summarized the design changes for the end of the Polpis path and crossing to remove the crossing of the new driveway, slow bicyclist speeds exiting the path

by adding a perpendicular approach to Sankaty Road with accessibility improvements, and other landscaping and split rail fencing added.

- Mike B asked if there could be comments provided but no action be taken.
- Amy E suggested that the existing driveway be used instead of adding a new driveway and mentioned some examples of why this is a safety concern.
- There was general discussion of the new driveway location and other options.
- Art G responded to general questions about the end of path and new driveway locations noting that the current design is trying to improve safety and reduce conflicts with the path.
- Joe T suggested a Belgium block apron if that could be provided.
- Mike B confirmed with RJ T that BPAC supports the design changes including the perpendicular path approach to the road, adding detectable warning panel, and other treatments to reduce conflicts.
- There was no action.

3. Other Business

a) Committee Comment

- Mike B noted a grant opportunity shared with the schools for bike rack and mentioned the widening of the Surfside Rd path in front of the High School and relocation of the crosswalk as part of the on-going sewer project.

b) Public Comment

- No public comments.

4. Adjourn

- Motion by Joe T seconded by John M to adjourn. Vote to approve was unanimous.
- The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:05PM

Submitted by:

Mike Burns