

Minutes of Kick-off Bike/Ped Meeting re Cottage Road
Planning Department
October 11, 2017
7:30- 9 AM

Members present

Alan Mills, Bike/Ped Comm.; Ken Hutchins, resident; Tim Pinette, resident ; Art Handman, Bus System; Jim Wilson, Fire Chief; Steve Sawyer, Sebago Technics; Sue Henderson, Councilor, Bike/Ped Comm.; Timothy Baker, resident; Rosemarie De Angelis, Chair Bike/Ped; Patrick Adams, Maine DOT; Paul Niehoff, PACTS, Bike/Ped Comm; Edward Googins, Police Chair; Jim Tasse, Bike/Ped Comm; Tim Soucie, Maine DOT; Erik Weisenburger, Bike/Ped Comm; Jeff Woodbury, resident; Angie Eccles, resident; Charles Haeuser, Planning Director

Introductions

Overview of Problem

Mr. Haeuser identified that there has been an awareness of safety issues and that grants from PACTS designated to be used to improve crossings at Goudy and Pillsbury. However, the grant money does not provide for all needed interventions.

When a recent proposed zoning change (MHCC) for a section of Meeting House Hill was discussed at a recent Planning Board Hearing, the result was a great deal of testimony related to traffic problems. The Planning Board recommended approval of the zoning change and that the traffic issue should be approached as a separate issue. When the proposed zoning change came to the City Council, it passed. An order was proposed that the Bike/Ped committee seek citizen involvement and assess the traffic issue and bring a recommendation to the City Council by March 30, 2018. He continued to discuss:

Process

1. Identify principles (such as fairness), ground rules (such as listening and allowing all to speak), objectives (establishing)
2. Assemble needed data (signal warrant data already on city web site under Planning Department site along with crash data).
3. Public participation: effective public participation needed to identify and define problems and develop a recommendation. This seems to be a task that a subcommittee could accomplish on a short term basis. Meetings will be open to the public, minutes will be posted on the website, an online presence will be established where people can respond to ideas and interaction can occur.
4. It was suggested that one public meeting should be held (perhaps in mid-December).
5. Identify possible solutions
6. Ideas could be brought to a Council workshop

7. Some ideas could be tested on the street
8. Then a formal request for a Capital Improvement budget be brought to the City Council

Principles and Objectives

- Reduce accidents
- Safer for peds and bikers
 - Children and senior especially
 - People with disabilities
- No net loss of striped parking
 - Time of day difference
 - Count existing spaces—capacity and utilization
- Safety for autos coming out of drives or streets—visibility
- Reduce auto speed by a set amount
- Do not significantly worsen Highland/Cottage congestion
- Reduce # of cars in the corridor
 - Shift some traffic to Ocean Street—consequences?
- Crosswalks compliant with regulations
- Need room for fire vehicles to get by
- Public education campaign
 - Proper action at crosswalks, carpooling, etc.
- Make the corridor well-lit
- Resist sign pollution
- Prioritize the needs of vulnerable users ahead of motorists

Needed Data—seek to obtain but don't let it bog us down

- Parking
- Speeds
- Ped and bike counts
- Crash data
- Vehicle type and turning movements
- Destinations—through vs. local
- Fire runs
- Bus service
- Transportation services who could be asked to adjust their route
- Street geometrics including crosswalks

Next Meeting Topics

- Review objectives and principles
- Report on data collection
- Report on on-line comments and response site
- Identify problems based on what we know now
- Tentative choice of public meeting date, venue

Next Meetings—7:30 to 9:00 AM, Planning Department, 496 Ocean Street

- Oct 25
- Nov 8
- Nov 22
- Dec 6

Round Robin: comments included were: it will be difficult to find a balance, the DOT's safety plans may be able to roll in to our work, we need to keep open minds and look at data, goal to make area safe, speed is a key issue, a fatal accident was witnessed, the road being discussed is a route to three schools, appreciating safety issues increases the livability and vitality of a community, and the volume of cars is very high.

Attachments: agenda, planning board minutes excerpt, Council order

Recording:

Susan Henderson