

2016 11 10 Minutes Bike & Pedestrian Alliance of Clinton

Green Room, Town Hall, Thursday, November 10, 2016, 7:30 pm

Debbie Lundgren, Paul Egan, Hal Tzeuschler, Maureen Noonan, Mark Koschwitz in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Debbie Lundgren.

Old Business:

Paul moved to accept the minutes from 10-13-16, Hal seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Debbie reported that the application to build the Indian River footbridge had been approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission at the Nov. 1 meeting. Carrie and Debbie will meet with Pete Neff later in November to discuss the options for bridge design and construction. They will also meet with Clinton Placemakers at Liberty Bank on Monday, Nov. 14, to set up a 501(c)(3) account for bridge donations.

Hal distributed a handout with two Greenway maps. One side showed the official Shoreline Greenway, theoretically running from East Haven to Hammonasset in Madison. After 15 years or so of efforts on behalf of the towns along the route, the map shows that very little trail has actually been put down. The other side shows the tentative route of the Clinton Greenway. Given the limited success of the Shoreline Greenway in getting approvals to pass through private land, Hal suggested that we may want to start out following along Route 1 and local roads rather than through private land. According to recent articles in the Shoreline Times, there has been pushback against the trail in Guilford due to the fact that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent over the years, and no trail has yet been laid. We don't want to run into the same problem in Clinton. It was suggested that we meet with the First Selectman to see whether the proposed sidewalk through town along Route 1 could become a multi-use trail instead, accommodating bicyclists as well as pedestrians. Also, for additional side roads south of Route 1 which might be appropriate for the Greenway route, we could ask for widening, signage and/or markings during repaving. When and if we get rights-of-way through private lands along the shoreline, plus grants for building, we could add alternative, scenic routes. Carrie continues to try to meet with Peter Richards to determine the feasibility of routing part of the trail through the Richards' lands.

Discussion of progress on the Complete Streets plan was tabled until next month, when Carrie will be back.

New Business:

After BPAC received inquiries at the IWC public hearing from town residents about contributing to the bridge, Maureen volunteered to look into fundraising options. She reported that we could use Go Fund Me to easily reach lots of people. The advantage is that a Go Fund Me site can easily be shared among friends, friends of friends, etc. The disadvantage is that it takes an 8% share of the money raised. Other issues raised were whether we should try to raise money when we already have two donors willing to contribute the \$20,000 needed. The consensus of opinion was that it would be better to have more local participation, both to include more people in the project and to take the burden off of just two people. Now we need to explain that idea on our fundraising site. Also, we need to verify that money raised through Go Fund Me (or another method) qualifies for the tax-deductible status of our placemaker account. Debbie will check with Clinton Placemakers at the Liberty Bank meeting on Monday and get back to everyone by email.

We discussed the idea of a spring walk/ride to celebrate the completion of the footbridge and bike/ped signage on the first series of local roads. Mark suggested having a celebration at the IRRC, maybe with bike safety activities, etc. We might ask Corporal Craig Lee of the Clinton Bike Patrol to give his presentation on bike safety. Paul suggested that we could have two groups meet in the middle of the bridge to celebrate the link that now connects the two sides (one from west of Rt 1 coming down from Cow Hill along Egypt Lane, through the IRRC to the footbridge; and one from the Ethel Peters area coming up Cream Pot Road to the footbridge). If we could have signage along those routes, that would add to the celebration. We could also invite the CPD Bike Patrol to join the rides. We will continue to brainstorm ideas for this celebration.

We unanimously decided to change our meeting date to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month rather than the 2<sup>nd</sup>, since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday allows us to have a permanent meeting place back at the conference room in the Eliot House. The new date will begin with our December meeting. Debbie will verify with Joan Lewis that this new date works and report back by email.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting, Mark seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes were submitted by Debbie Lundgren.