

Attendees:

Donna Hayford
Leah Drennan
Brian Ross
David McCarthy
Scott Hastings

Topics Discussed:

1. Minutes were approved for January 6th meeting and will be added to the Town web site.
2. January 15 meeting with Doreen MacGillis of the York Land Trust. (Brian, Donna, David)

Doreen discussed the efforts of the Land Trust to conserve land in York and surrounding Towns. Maps can be found at www.yorklandtrust.org

She encouraged the efforts of the committee and suggested focusing on connecting the more populated sections of York to allow for greater walking and cycling for recreation and daily tasks. She is willing to assist with our efforts to develop and implement the master Plan.

Usage rules for Land Trust properties vary based on the conservation objectives (e.g. cottontail restoration) and/or characteristics of the land (e.g. wetlands or fragile soil). Biking, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, are allowed to varying degrees at each location. Rules are posted at access points to the properties.

3. January 14 meeting with Dean Lessard (Dave)

The meeting was held to get a better understanding of rule, regulations, and responsibilities for sidewalk constructions and maintenance. While the York Corners to Route 91 section of Route 1 was the basis for the discussion, the conditions and rules apply broadly throughout the Town. This was a follow-up to prior discussions at Committee meetings.

A summary of the key issues follows:

- a) There is no requirement for commercial property owners to paint crosswalks across driveways. If some changes are made that require Planning Board approval, the Planning Board may require that the applicant address pedestrian safety issues.
- b) In some cases when the Town or state is doing road improvements, sidewalks will be added at that time. There is no known requirement for existing businesses to add sidewalks, but if some changes are made to the property that require Planning Board approval, the Planning Board may require that the applicant address pedestrian safety issues. The Town *could* upgrade the sidewalks in this area if it were approved as a capital budget item.
- c) Who is responsible for maintaining and snow removal for sidewalks? There is no clear criteria for when the Town takes responsibility. DPW focuses on sidewalks at or near schools, but does additional clearing (e.g. Long Sands and York Beach) after primary areas are finished.
- d) Excerpt from Town of York Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations:

9.6.4.1 The Planning Board shall require sidewalks when the development is within 1 mile of any school. The Board may also require sidewalks in other locations where appropriate.

9.6.4.2 The Planning Board shall require curbs when the development is located in a section of Town where curbs are either existing, or are in the vicinity so that it can be expected the curbs will form a continuum in the near future. Curbs shall be designed with areas for handicap access.

- e) Formally adopting a Complete Streets policy for the Town would assure more consistent street, sidewalk, bike infrastructure in future projects.
- f) The increased number of businesses and the addition of the Police Station continues to increase community access to the York Corners area. This supports the case for bike and pedestrian improvements including extending the sidewalk to Route 1 and establishing a crosswalk at that point.

Other items discussed:

Comp Plan: How is it used in daily Town activities? Efforts are being made to find a way to better update the plan, focus the action items, and align Selectmen, Planning Board, and Town Staff efforts.

The road paving plan is the key to incrementally improving walkways and bike lanes/shoulders. This was discussed in the context of Old Post Road (due for repaving in 2017 with expectation to have 28 foot width – 10 foot travel lanes and 4 foot shoulders) and Lilac Lane (a.k.a. Route 103 from bridge to York Street) which could include a sidewalk and a crosswalk across York Street.

Dean is interested in actively supporting the Committee and asked that we send him agendas and meeting dates so that he can join us whenever he is available.

4. Discussion of questions and approach to conducting a survey to obtain community input to issues impacting cycling and walking safety and accessibility.

Scott provided an outline of the survey based on his previous experience in Richmond, Maine. The questions were discussed and determined to be a solid basis for the survey. The outline will be fleshed out for further discussions at the next meeting. The survey is expected to be conducted in the April-May timeframe.

Ensuring that we would have broad, representative participation in the survey resulted in looking at how we could reach people throughout the community and have them provide their input either electronically or in hard copy. Some ideas that were brought up were:

- Meetings at the Senior Center and York Housing
- Having a table at the May 21st Town vote
- Reaching students either directly at school (possibly using a separate brief survey during “tech time” for younger students) or indirectly through parents of younger students with “conditional” questions on the surveys and asking the high school civics program to assist in reaching high school students.
- Surveys can be distributed at community workshop/York Community dialog forum
- Publicize the survey in the newspaper, local TV station, York Community Dialog Facebook page, Committee Facebook page, and other media.

The survey will be further discussed at the February 3rd Committee meeting.

5. A guide to interview/meeting with Bike-Ped Stakeholders had been distributed as a read-ahead. After a brief discussion, it was determined that a guide was not needed to standardize interviews.

6. Updates on Open Action Items:

- There are no known ethical reasons for committee members or the committee as a whole to work with healthy Maine partners, ice cream shops, and the York Police to re-establish the program that provided YPD with ice cream cone coupons to award to kids “caught” showing good bicycle behavior.
- Brian’s York Weekly Letter to the Editor publicizing and promoting the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee was published. Limited feedback has been received to date.
- The use of collaborative writing tools for the Master Plan presents complications for configurations management and possible conflict with public meeting rules and will not be pursued at this time.
- A review of the York Comprehensive Plan “immediate action items” was distributed electronically to members. Discussion of these items and broader issues of how the Bike-Ped Master plan meshes with the Comp Plan will be deferred until a Committee meeting at which Dylan Smith, Town Planner, can provide guidance.
- Dave will continue to work with schools to establish dates for bike-ped safety educations at VE and CRES and to conduct a bike rodeo for K-3 students.
- Ron McAllister of the York Community Dialog advised that the Steering Committee will be meeting in early February to discuss what topic will be discussed at their spring workshop. If our bike-Ped topic is not selected, we will pursue a separate workshop to obtain community input for the Master Plan.
- “Quick Hits” identification and action are on-going actions and are on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Obtaining data on cyclist and pedestrian accidents not involving a motor vehicle remains an open item.

Action Items:

Arrange a time for Dylan Smith to work with the committee on meshing the Master Plan with the Comp Plan (Scott)

Distribute Windham Complete Streets Policy to members (Brian)

Contact Jeff Barry of York High School Public Citizen program about working with the program to promote survey completion by High school students (Dave)

Arrange for a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to obtain their thoughts on issues related to cycling and walking in York. (Dave)

Next Meeting: February 3, 2016 at 1:00 at the York Public Library

Tentative Agenda:

Continue to refine survey questions and how to achieve strong participation from all segments of the Town Population. Develop survey schedule that is integrated with the May ballot, the proposed Community Dialog workshop and other events.

Discuss Complete Streets policy and how it might be addressed in the Master Plan.

Review Quick Hits list for prioritization and actions to be taken.