

**Attendees:**

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| Donna Hayford                                       |
| Leah Drennan  |
| Brian Ross  |
| David McCarthy                                      |
| Scott Hastings                                      |
| Guest: Michael Sullivan – York Parks and Recreation |

**Topics Discussed:**

1. The primary goals for the meeting was to better understand the programs, facilities and plans of the Parks and Recreations Department, how their efforts impact biking and walking in York, and how the Committee and Parks and Rec can work together to improve walking and cycling in York.

Mike commented that York has some of the most beautiful places to walk and ride in Maine, but also has some of the most dangerous areas to bike and walk. The Committee agrees with the comment and will work with all parties to improve safety for walkers and cyclists so we can all enjoy all the Town has to offer.

Some specific areas addressed:

Mike sees several areas that will significantly grow in usage by locals and visitors. Connecting all these areas for cyclists and walkers will be a challenge.

- The Mt A Summit Universal Access Trail will provide an outdoor walking option for families and others who may not be able to take advantage of the more difficult trails around Mt A. It will also provide an excellent place for beginner bike riders to advance their skills. The popularity of Mt A continues to increase. An expansion of the parking at the base of the mountain is addressed in the Capital Plan with design of the lot in 2016 and building the lot in 2017.
- Goodrich Park has seen a significant increase in walkers since the trails were recently improved and publicized.
- Lake Caroline improvements – especially the new dam – make this an attraction for picnics and skating.
- York Land Trust's Highland Farm trails are becoming increasingly popular.
- Already very popular, cycling and walking on the Nubble will continue to grow. Most organized bike rides (e.g. Granite State Challenge and Cystic Fibrosis) and fund raising walks (e.g. Alzheimer's fund raiser) involve use of roads on the Nubble and water stops at the Lighthouse area.

Areas in which the Committee can collaborate with Parks and Rec:

- Defining safe bike routes in York for short, medium, and longer rides, creating maps, and distributing maps. This may also include collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce.

- Identifying, building, and publicizing off road paths for walkers and cyclists. Paths in the Town Farm to High School area and connecting Spur Road to the Bog Road Fields were mentioned.
- Committee members will work with Parks and Rec on providing Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Educations and sponsoring Bike Rodeos or other events to promote safe biking. Some of these may be in conjunction with the summer day camps.
- Locations for bike racks at Parks and Rec facilities. Bike racks are in the plans for the new Long Sands Bathhouse.

Other Parks and Rec programs supporting cycling and walking in York:

- Mountain biking training sessions.
- Walking programs as part of the Senior Center, including indoor walking in the high school and Nordic Walking.
- Many programs at Mount A involve getting children and families outdoors and active (e.g. Story Walk, and other guided programs).

2. Minutes of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved. Donna will provide a copy of the minutes for posting on the Town Web site.
3. The Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System (KACTS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Maine portion of the Portsmouth and Dover-Rochester, New Hampshire urbanized areas. An MPO is a committee, along with support staff, responsible for planning and programming of federally funded transportation projects within a designated "Metropolitan Area." The KACTS MPO area includes York, Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick, and Berwick. KACTS provides grants for transportation planning in their communities. The Committee determined that the grant program does not fit its needs at this point, but will be considered for future projects identified by the Master Plan.
4. Scott advised the Committee that the Town Manager was including funding in the Capital Plan for studying road improvements in the Nubble area. We can address this in greater detail in the Master Plan.
5. A point paper outlining how we could conduct a public forum to gather community input for the Master Plan was discussed. The proposed process was refined and the document will be edited before sending to Ron McAllister and the York Community Dialog Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will be meeting in early March to decide on the topic for their spring forum. If they choose a topic other than our bike/ped proposal, the Committee will host a separate forum.

**Action Items:**

Establish and provide date for K-3 Bike Rodeo to Robin Cogger for publication in the Spring York Illustrated Parks and Rec program guide. (Dave)

Locate and provide existing information on walks in York (Leah)

Propose safe bike routes for Committee consideration (Donna)

Provide a draft outline for scheduled 28 March brief to the Selectmen (Dave)

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2016 at 1:00 at the York Public Library

**Tentative Agenda:**

Abby King from the Bicycle Coalition of Maine will join us. The “Imagine Bikes here Program” <http://www.bikemaine.org/advocacy/legislative-advocacy/imagine-bikes-here> may provide support for some of the Committee’s Quick Hit items. She will also be able to address any questions on BCM and what resources they have to offer to support our efforts.

Based on the York Community Dialog’s decision, move forward with scheduling and preparing for a public forum. Prepare exhibits for the forum.

Review outline for the March 28 Selectmen’s Report.

Review the Plan of Action and Milestones to assess our progress towards the October 2016 draft master plan.