

Attendees:

Donna Hayford
Brian Ross
David McCarthy
Leah Drennan
Scott Hastings
Guests: York Area Chamber of Commerce Holly Roberts – Executive Director Stephanie Oeser – Program Manager

Topics Discussed:

- 1) Minutes of the April 6, 2016 meeting were approved. Dave will provide a copy of the minutes for posting on the Town Web site.
- 2) Holly Roberts, Executive Director, and Stephanie Oeser, Program Manager, for the York Area Chamber of Commerce joined the Committee to discuss areas of mutual interest in improving walking and cycling in York.

Some key points from the discussions:

- a) **Parking:** The Maine DoT published a book of maps for bike rides. One of those rides is shown to start at the Chamber. This has caused a problem for the Chamber as there is insufficient parking available, especially on Farmers Market Days (Thursdays and Saturdays). This led to a broader discussion on parking throughout York to accommodate cyclists who wish to tour the York area.

The park and ride on Spur Road is difficult to use for cyclists because of the difficulty of crossing Route 1 and the lack of facilities at the lot. (See below for Route 1 safety discussions.) The recommended bike routes being developed by the Committee are looking at the schools as “trail heads”. The Village revitalization effort will also include directional signage for parking.

Other possible parking sites brainstormed were at the new connecting road from Route 1 to York Beach, York Hospital (after hours), the new Police station, and the Bog Road Fields.

- b) **Route 1 safety:** From their perch at the Chamber, Holly and Stephanie have observed all manner of cyclist, pedestrian, and motorist chaos, confusion, and misbehavior. The design and marking of the intersection of Spur Road is the major cause of this, but cyclist and motorist lack of understanding of bicycle road positioning at such an inter section is a contributing factor. The Committee must address this intersection in the Master Plan.

Businesses and traffic on Route 1 have continued to grow. Several areas were touched on including: lack of turning lanes especially in the area from Spur Road to Anthony’s; lack of signage and markings around Spur Road intersection, and varying speed limits including the short but dangerous 55 mph area that quickly drops lanes and speed limit to 35. Note: reduction of the 55 mph speed limit should be a part of the connecting road design.

- c) **Bike and Walking Routes:** The Committee is mapping biking and walking routes for residents and tourists. The Chamber encourages this effort and shared their experience with a company (Atlantic Communications) in developing maps. Holly also suggested that businesses and shops

along the bike and walking routes should be solicited to fund the maps. She also noted that a Chamber member has recommended that the Chamber or Town buy the property behind the Chamber for walking trails.

- d) Chamber support for Committee efforts: The Chamber offered to support the Committee's efforts in publicizing our events and routes on the Chamber web site and through posting flyers and hard copy materials in their welcome center. Holly and Stephanie invited Committee members to the May 18 Business After Hours gathering to discuss cycling and walking initiatives informally with Chamber members.
- e) Crosswalks: Walking around Town is seen as difficult due to lack of pedestrian activated crossing lights. Such lights should be considered at Organaug and York Street, along Long Sands beach, and at the Nubble.
- f) Cyclist and motorist understanding of rules of the road: The discussions brought up the need for education of all road and sidewalk users to understand the laws and ordinances and to obey them. Beyond the laws and ordinances, general courtesy and patience of all parties is needed. On roads like Shore Road, single file riding should be encouraged for safety and courtesy.
- g) Bike Rack at the Chamber: Holly and Stephanie expressed their gratitude for choosing to install the bike rack donated by the Healthy Maine Partners at the Chamber. Dave will coordinate with Healthy Maine Partners and the Chamber to install the bike rack.

3) Public Forum:

The Cycling and Walking Community Forum is scheduled for Saturday, May 7th at the York Public Library from 10:00 to 12:00.

The format of the Forum will include registration, a brief introduction on how the process works, and then a series of breakout areas for people to provide their views, experiences, and hopes for improving safety and accessibility for walkers and cyclists in York. Participants will be able to provide their thoughts in any or all of the topical breakout areas or other thoughts not covered.

The May 4th meeting will be dedicated to Forum preparations and publicity.

4) Town of York Walking and Bicycling Survey:

Scott reported that over 70 people had completed the survey. Survey response was promoted by articles in the Portsmouth Herald and York Weekly by Deborah McDermott. Hard copies of the survey are available at the Town Clerk's Office, the Library, and the Senior Center.

5) Bike Rodeo: June 2nd planning is on-going.

Action Items:

Install the bike rack provided by Healthy Maine Partners at the Greater York Area Chamber of Commerce. (Dave)

Next Meeting: May 4, 2016 at 1:00 at the York Public Library

Approve Minutes from April 20 meeting

Preparations for Public Forum

Upcoming Calendar of Bike/Ped events:

May 7: Public Forum on cycling and pedestrian issues

May 14: York Community Dialog on Town Taxes (8:30 – 11:30)

May 18: Committee members participate in Chamber After-Hours Event

May 21: York Voting Day – Committee booth with survey and educational materials

June 2: Bike Rodeo at CRES – set-up at 4:00; Rodeo from 5:30 to 7:30

June 4: National Trails Day - Hiking with Families – Mt A Kids' Corner– 1:00-2:00

July 19: Bike and Pedestrian Safety Education presentation to Library summer reading program