

Yankee Doodle Bike Path Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 25, 2023

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A meeting of the Yankee Doodle Bike Path Committee was held on Tuesday April 25, 2023, at 7pm in room 110, Town Hall. Present were Ellen Rawlings, Chair, Jack Bowen, Joe Fiumara, shellEy Rosenbaum-Lipman, Ed Giroux, and Andrew Deslaurier. Is Zoom. Assistance with the Zoom meeting was Kerri Rufo.

The Committee received a project update. Kelley Conway, Town Engineer had provided a schedule update from VHB. The Chair had also spoken with Isabel Tourkantonis for an update from the Conservation Commission.

-the NOI was filed in January 2023. Initial presentation to the Billerica Conservation Commission occurred in January 2023. A project review meeting was held, comments from ConCom received. The NOI as presented by VHB was sent for two peer reviews.

-at the ConCom meeting of March 10, the peer reviewer comments were discussed, with many questions regarding the filing. VHB was tasked with revising the NOI and mitigation areas due to changes from the previous submittal. The hearing was continued to Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

While other work, such as bridge sketch plans and ROW work continues, the big hurdle is the environmental reviews and permitting. The YDBPC discussed the NOI process and agreed to proceed slowly with public engagement until the environmental process is further along.

The Committee discussed some ideas for future public engagement, including a report to Town Meeting and an update on the Town's web page regarding the project status. Participation on a BATV program with visuals will also help make the project more real. Social media options will be considered as future options, but are not the best route right now. The Committee wants to feel more certain that the current schedule will hold. A future discussion should also focus on bike path amenities such as benches, signage, etc. Erica Jerram, Planning and Community Development Director will also be very helpful. Town Manager Neighborhood Meetings would also be a good venue.

A question raised at the Committee's last meeting about construction materials used in the wetlands also needs to be answered. There is concern about the longevity and safety of wooden bridges in wetlands.

Debra Cobb, an abutter, asked about the proximity of the path to her home and asked if someone could come to her property to show where the path will go. This request will be forwarded to Kelley Conway.

Andrew Jennings, attending via zoom, asked about the bike path extension north of the High School. It was explained that the scope of the project ends at the High School. The current Boston Road/3A project includes safe crossing at Good Street and a marked

bike lane north to the Marshall Middle School. Hopefully, a future project will extend the Bike Path northward.

The Minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting were reviewed. On a motion to approve by Joe Fiumara and a second by Shelley Rosenbaum-Lipman, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The Committee was reminded all need to take the Comm of MA Ethics review.

The YDBPC voted on officers. Ellen Rawlings was nominated as Chair by Joe Fiumara with a second by Jack Bowen. The vote was unanimous. The Committee also voted Shelley Rosenbaum-Lipman as Vice Chair with a motion by Ed Giroux and a second by Joe Fiumara. The position of Secretary is open.

Andrew Deslaurier's appointment by the Select Board is up at the end of June, as is Joe Fiumara's appointment by the RecCom. The open position will be advertised with the Moderator position open this year in June.

The YDBPC scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 7pm. Room tbd.

At 8pm, Joe Fiumara made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jack Bowen. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Rawlings, Chair