

Minutes from June 25, 2019 Selectboard meeting addressing B&W agenda item

The Bike and Walkways Committee is hereby established to consider ways to provide safe areas for biking and walking. The Board of Selectmen believes that these activities should be available seasonally and year-round as they are an important means of local transportation, are popular activities in the town, and promote good health.

The Bike and Walkway Committee is charged with the following tasks:

1. To work with the Cape Cod National Seashore, the Towns of Provincetown and Truro and the Cape Cod Commission to establish the continuation of the bike trail northward into Provincetown.

2. To prepare a plan for future bike and walking routes throughout the town of Wellfleet.

Reinhart said she felt the Committee was not being helpful in providing plans for ways to improve Bike and Walkways. She said the Committee was only saying “no”. She provided suggestions to the Committee. Reinhart also said that Rebecca Brodwick Noble should have recused herself in the vote to recommend Article 44 for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Wilson said the committee has been doing exactly what their charge is. Wilson has attended several Bike and Walkway Committee meetings and public meetings on the issue. She said the Committee has considered alternatives and the Committee is addressing a serious safety issue. Wilson noted that the Board voted to approve Noble to her position on the Committee with no concern for a conflict of interest and approved her acting on this particular issue because her appearance of conflict would not substantially affect her acting on the issue when the Selectboard accepted her disclosure statement.

Ned Oliver, Committee member, said the Committee would like to stop the trail from going any onto Route 6. He said the bike trail will be a good thing, but not if it goes out to the highway as DOT is proposing.

Bacon said she had attended the first meeting with the DCR in 2018 and was pleased with the plan. She said the State seeking additional land for a parking lot seems like an added benefit. She said the Town would benefit from this project, listing the possibilities of a public bathroom, picnic tables, and memorial sign for Miles Tibbetts. Bacon said the DOT DCR was not likely going to give up the last half mile of land to create the parking lot. She said she sees the parking lot not as a terminus, but as a beginning.

Reinhart asked Oliver and the Committee to separate the DCR Bike Trail project from the DOT Bike Lane project. Oliver reiterated the Committees concern with the location of the parking lot, not the concept of a parking lot itself. He said the Committee is asking for time to find alternatives. Reinhart asked how much time. Oliver said he thought a year would be enough time.

Noble said that 1,000 cyclists go through the terminus at LeCount Hollow currently and that 25,000 cars a day pass along Route 6 in the area. She noted that people do go out onto Route 6 after that because they are not from here and are unaware of how dangerous it is to ride on Route 6. Reinhart suggested signage in the area to deter people from going onto the highway. Noble said she did not feel signs work, as people do not even obey speed limit signs.

Wilson said the Board has asked repeatedly for a joint DOT and DCR meeting. She noted that these two agencies work together all the time. Hoort said these are two separate projects. He said the Town of Wellfleet is paying for and designing, through Stantec, a Route 6 and Main St. intersection. This design will go to the DOT who simply says whether the project is in line with their standards; the DOT is not designing the project.

Wilson acknowledged at both the DCR meeting in the gym and the joint DOT/DCR meeting with abutters to both projects, that the two agencies are working with awareness that their projects are related.

Reinhart said she did not like the proposed letter from the Committee which requests the “halt of construction”. She said the Town wants to move forward with something.

Audience member Peter Cook said he found a letter from DCR to MEPA from December 18, 2018 which discusses the need for DOT approval of the intersection. He said the letter states that the projects are dependent upon each other.

Carlson agreed with Reinhart and suggested the Board write their own letter with politer language. She said she also did not see the urgency in writing the letter but sees the passions behind the issue. Carlson agreed with Reinhart and suggested the Board write their own letter with politer language. **She suggested waiting a few weeks and having the Selectboard compose their own letter.**

Wilson said a petition is circulating that will be sent to the Governor to address the issue. She said she hopes for a safe way to get from the Bridge to Provincetown.

- The Board took no action.