

The Wellfleet Bike & Walkways Committee Virtual Meeting – Zoom
Monday, August 23, 2021, at 10 am
Meeting Minutes



Members in Attendance: Ned Oliver, Pete Cook, Rebecca Brodwick Noble, and Christie O’Campbell

1. *Call to Order*: Pete calls the meeting to order at 10:14 am.
2. *Approve minutes from the committee meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at 10:00 am*: Pete makes a motion to approve the minutes with the inclusion of his recommended edit, Christie seconds, and all vote in favor.
3. *Review of new (Aug 2021) Stantec bike and pedestrian way designs for MassDOT project on Route 6 and Main Street, and their recommendations to Selectboard*: Slides start on page 49 of the Selectboard packet for their Tuesday, August 24th (which was moved to Friday, August 27) meeting. The first page in the Selectboard packet states that the “Desired Action is to discuss and possibly vote on the Route 6 and Main Street project.” The committee reviews the Stantec slides in the Selectboard meeting packet, which are mainly pictures to accompany the upcoming Stantec presentation. The committee pauses at the slide with a visual for an additional option on Route 6 for the 10-foot shared-use path to become a single-use 6.5-foot walking path. Pete also explains the visual demonstrating the bike line along Main Street from the Route 6 intersection ending at the Wicked Oyster parking lot. The group notes that much of the stretch visualized is across driveways and along business parking lots, both on Route 6 and on the Main Street section. Rebecca points out that Stantec previously stated that the Route 6-Main Street intersection plans would end up looking very different if an alternative bike path is selected instead. Therefore, it’s challenging and potentially out of sequence for the Town to approve the Route 6 proposal before an alternative bikeway route is fully considered, particularly when the Route 6 bike path is rated the lowest in our recently-submitted analysis of alternatives. Pete points out that while Route 6 motor vehicle traffic is trimmed down a lane in the Stantec design (a road diet as it is called by Stantec) to slow

down traffic, it is confusing to see the opposite philosophy applied on East Main Street -- a widening of the roadway, particularly when it can't be continued beyond Wicked Oyster. Ned recalls that in contrast, the stated purpose of bikeway sharrows in traffic lanes is to slow traffic down in a tight space – which is an alternative design approach. Pete asks whether the Committee is prepared to make a recommendation to the Selectboard. Rebecca mentions that though we are making specific recommendations as we look through the slides, her hope is to first investigate the alternatives. Her hope is that the Selectboard asks Stantec to let the Town take the next steps on the ongoing investigation of alternative bike paths before deciding on the Stantec plan – which to some degree assumes there is no alternative bike path being selected. Pete reiterates his concern about the Main Street section of the path, and his concerns that this is all moving forward despite public concerns. Christie asks about the partial Main Street sidewalk plan and wondered if the Selectboard asked for this plan in the first place. She wonders how we can comment on the Stantec plan without seeing the continuation plan. Pete wants to draft a committee letter for the Selectboard. Rebecca and Christie volunteer and ask Ned to clarify what he wants to be represented in the letter. Ned says until we know what's happening with alternative plans, it does not make sense to assess the Stantec plan for the Main Street and Route 6 intersection.

4. *Bikeway report follow-up – next steps regarding feasibility, design, and other considerations:* Christie wonders if a next step could be contacting the Cape Cod Commission to do a route feasibility study with the approval of the Selectboard, and Rebecca and Ned agree. Ned wonders if we need to meet with the Seashore again. One highly rated alternative (Route Z) requires a 10-foot piece of Seashore land. Pete points out that the committee can offer to assist the Selectboard in making these next steps, yet these steps are technically theirs to make since we are advisors to the Selectboard. Christie offers to reach out to Steve Tupper to ask how we can facilitate the next steps.
5. *Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting:* None.

Adjournment: Pete adjourns the meeting at 11:20.

Attachment One: Email to the Selectboard offering feedback on the Stantec designs. Sent on August 26, 2021.

Dear Selectboard,

We appreciate the careful consideration the Selectboard gives to town matters of all kinds and would like to offer two recommendations from the Wellfleet Bike and Walkways Committee regarding the new (Aug 2021) Stantec designs for the MassDOT project.

1. **Before finalizing designs, we believe it is critical to first explore a few targeted alternative bike routes that are separated from vehicle traffic.** The current Stantec designs for Route 6 and the 450-foot widening of Main Street assumes that Route 6 will be the sole bikeway available. However, the design can look very different if there is a safe bikeway alternative

As stated in our report, the Stantec design ranked last (28th out of 28) for the total score and for safety. In contrast, there are several high quality and suitable routes that will simplify the needs for bike accommodations on Route 6, eliminate the need for the widening of Main Street from Route 6, and direct bikers to access town via the Long Pond Road bridge.

2. **Do not act on the premise that the funding will disappear.** Projects like the MassDOT Route 6 reconstruction compete against each other regionally at the Cape Cod Commission for prioritization based on public need and readiness to move forward. There is no “falling off the list” for a high-priority need (such as the Route 6/Main St intersection improvement), merely a schedule change within the list. MassDOT’s newly expressed project urgency contradicts their past behavior—they have spent years growing the project scope instead of implementing the intersection fix the town initially requested.

We truly feel that there is momentum to build a lasting legacy for safe biking and walking in our town by creating an alternative bikeway, and look forward to supporting this endeavor. Thank you for your care of our town.

Respectfully,

The Bike and Walkways Committee