



The Wellfleet Bike & Walkways Committee Virtual Meeting – Zoom
Friday, March 26, 2021 at 9am
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Pete Cook, Rebecca Brodwick Noble, Ned Oliver, Lance Miller, and Christie O’Campbell

Members Absent: none

Other Town Representatives Present: none

1. *Call to Order*: Pete calls the meeting to order at 9:02.
2. *Administrative matters*
 - a. *Meeting rules to invite public comment*: The committee invites public comment and input at the end of each agenda item with a one-minute limit for each speaker. We welcome more feedback through email, as well as proposals to the committee that can become future agenda items.
 - b. *Review committee’s official charge*: Pete reads the official Bike and Walkways Committee Charge that is posted on the website and below (see *Attachment 1*).
 - c. *Near-term committee meeting calendar*: Pete proposes that we add one additional meeting next week on April 2 in order to prepare for our presentation to the Selectboard with our analysis plan. After that, we will continue with our bimonthly meetings until Memorial Day, at which point we can reassess.
3. *Approve minutes from committee meeting on March 12, 2021*: Christie moves that we approve the March 12, 2021 minutes, Lance seconds, and all vote in favor.
4. *Bikeway route through Wellfleet to Truro*

Note: The committee is developing the methodology for an upcoming comprehensive and unbiased numerical analysis of all alternative routes. The committee will not be critiquing or evaluating alternative routes in this meeting.

- a. *Analysis project milestone schedule*: As we pursue our overall game plan to present recommendations to the Selectboard in June, we are prepared to present our overall analysis plan to the Selectboard on April 6.
- b. *Stakeholder involvement update*: The committee has been in active and productive conversation with the Cape Cod Commission and the Cape Cod National Seashore superintendent and staff members who are providing written and technical feedback. We have also communicated with town government agencies, including the Police Department, DPW, and the Fire Department, among others as well as the two state agencies: DCR and DOT.
- c. *Analysis plan update*: We are incorporating stakeholder feedback into the criteria. They have given very helpful line by line feedback. Their interest and expertise are valuable, and they commented that the plan is rigorous, comprehensive, objective, systematic.
- d. *Alternative routes database update*: We have chosen to break down the pathways into segments. In working to objectively consider all pathways, Lance proposes the

analysis will require uni-directional segments. Therefore, certain segments may be entered into the database twice. We will also add a directional column (N, NE, E...and so on) to keep the segments clear.

- e. *GIS tool update:* As discussed in the last meeting, we are working with ArcGIS, the GIS tool of choice for the town, the CCNS and the Cape Cod Commission. The town has shared their data about property ownership, and natural features of the land. CCNS has already shared their data with the Cape Cod Commission and recommends that we use them as a point of contact. The Cape Cod Commission has been extremely helpful.

Public Input: A community member mentioned the GIS geoprocessing ability to measure gradience. Another community member voiced his opinion that the committee could think in three basic corridors, rather than about an actual pathway, as well as consider the pathway from a broad perspective instead of an analytical perspective. He is also interested to hear about the CCNS and their level of agreement, as well as budgeting considerations. Lastly, he hopes the committee will speak with homeowners on potential pathways early in the process. A third community member asked about the feedback from the CCNS about their potential involvement in bikeway plans. Pete responded that our interaction with the CCNS is currently to gain their advice and input about the Goals and Objectives for a bikeway, as we work to confirm that we include the interests of the CCNS in our analysis. It has been a fruitful exchange.

- 5. *Other bikeway and walkway issues:* The Wellfleet Recycling Committee is working to encourage the use of tap water and sent an email requesting help identifying water sources on the bikeway to minimize disposable water bottle use. They also would like feedback about how to best mark water stations on the bikeway in the future. Pete moves that Ned serve as a point person to collect data/responses for the recycling committee and share it at the next meeting, Christie seconds, and all vote in favor.
- 6. *Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting:* The DCR has initiated work at the South Wellfleet bikeway starting point. Rebecca informally learned from the contractor in charge that, as DCR originally planned, they are putting in a gravel road from Lecount Hollow Rd along the four houses that need vehicle access and constructing the bike path parallel to that. They stated they are pausing the work at the campground. Pete confirmed that he was told the same thing by contractors working at Lecount Hollow Rd. Many community members have expressed concern about the ongoing work. Meanwhile, members of the public have also been asking our committee members about increased activity at the Amsler property, apparently in preparation for building demolition. Pete contacted the Town Administrator to inquire about why there seems to be demolition preparations at the Amsler property. The Town Administrator put him in touch with the Town Building Inspector, who confirmed the DCR contractors were planning to demolish the Amsler property buildings to create a bikeway parking lot. Pete spoke with contractors at the bikeway construction site who confirmed they would begin demolishing the buildings as soon as they had permits in place. The committee members discussed their growing concern that DCR is proceeding with their original Route 6 bikeway terminus plan in spite of the DCR Commissioner's assurances to the Selectboard that his department would pause the Rail Trail project at the Wellfleet Hollow Campground. It was discussed that, as an advisory committee, we can write a letter of concern to the Selectboard advising action on behalf of the town. Pete moves that we draft an immediate letter to the Selectboard urging their action

regarding DCR's activities at the Amsler property, requesting that the Selectboard engage the DCR Commissioner, Christie seconds the motion, and all vote in favor.

7. *Adjournment*: Pete adjourns the meeting at 9:58.

Attachment 1: Bike and Walkways Committee Charge

Attachment 2: Selectboard Letter to Gov Baker, 26 Aug 2020

Attachment 3: DCR Letter to Selectboard

Bike and Walkways Committee, bikeandwalkways@wellfleet-ma.gov

CHARGE

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.

Attachment 2: Selectboard Letter to Gov Baker, 26 Aug 2020



**TOWN OF WELFLEET
OFFICE OF THE SELECTBOARD**

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August 26, 2020

Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St.
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker, Lt Governor Polito and DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery,

As members of the Wellfleet Selectboard, we represent our residents and taxpayers in all matters that important public issues. We are writing to bring to your attention a serious, ongoing public safety concern related to where the DCR plans to end the Cape Cod Rail Trail Bike Path in Wellfleet.

Our town is very supportive of continuing the Bike Path through Wellfleet and appreciates all the hard work and planning that has gone into the project. However, we do not support the current DCR plan, as it has the proposed Bike Path project terminus immediately abutting and corresponding with an expanded bike lane on Route 6 proposed by the DOT, at the busiest and most congested stretch of the highway in Wellfleet. At issue is the foreseeable increase in use of this dangerous section of road for cyclists to reach nearby attractions. Members of our community have repeatedly voiced their public safety concerns with this proposal at public meetings hosted by the DCR, and in smaller gatherings with DCR and DOT staff, but they feel that their valid considerations have been overlooked.

On April 23, 2019 at our Annual Town Meeting, citizens of Wellfleet voted almost unanimously in favor of Article 44, which requested

“that the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board consider alternate routes for the Bike Trail Extension and to ask the appropriate agencies to halt any planning or construction of the bike trail extension beyond Old County Road until those deliberations have occurred.”

Therefore, we formally request that the DCR postpone any further construction and planning of the bike trail extension beyond Old County Road (also known as Old Kings Highway) due to public safety concerns. We ask that in future planning, the DCR work with DOT staff, the Town, and the Superintendent of the Cape Cod National Seashore, to seek alternative routes and safely continue the Cape Cod Rail Trail through Wellfleet.

Attachment 3: DCR Letter to Selectboard



September 24, 2020

Mr. Michael DeVasto, Chair
Town of Wellfleet Select Board
300 Main Street,
Wellfleet, MA 02267

Dear Chairman DeVasto,

I just received your letter of August 26, 2020, expressing the Town's concerns over the extent and current timeline of the DCR Wellfleet extension project for the Cape Cod Rail Trail (CCRT).

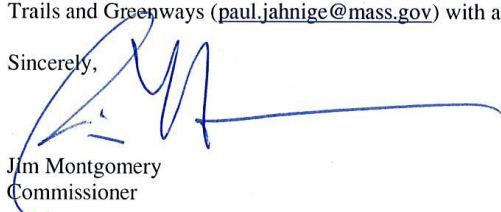
Thank you for your input and communication. At this time DCR has elected to phase our project and only construct the CCRT extension from the Lecount Hollow trailhead to DCR's Wellfleet Hollow Campground. We hope to initiate construction of this project early next calendar year and complete it sometime in 2022. We believe that this Phase One project will be a benefit to both Wellfleet and Commonwealth residents.

While we appreciate your desire to explore alternative shared-use pathway routes north of Old County Road, DCR does not own any other rights of way and would defer any feasibility studies to the Town and other parties. In addition, DCR continues to believe that the safest and best approach for users of the CCRT, and for Wellfleet residents of all ages, will be to continue the CCRT on the former railroad corridor to a new terminus trailhead at Route 6. However, as requested, we have placed those plans on hold for the present.

As a part of our current project, we do ask that the Town work with DCR to provide temporary alternative parking for the Lecount Hollow trailhead near the Chamber of Commerce on the Town-owned old State Highway.

We hope that this addresses the Town's concerns, and we look forward to working with you as the Phase One project moves into construction. Please feel free to reach out to me again, or to Craig Cashman, DCR Director of Legislative Affairs, (craig.r.cashman@mass.gov), or Paul Jahnige, DCR Director of Trails and Greenways (paul.jahnige@mass.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jim Montgomery
Commissioner

CC: Maria Broadbent, Town Administrator, Maria.Broadbent@Wellfleet-MA.gov

Senator Julian Cyr Julian.Cyr@masenate.gov

Rep. Sarah Peake: Sarah.Peake@mahouse.gov

Craig Cashman, DCR

Paul Jahnige, DCR

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary, Executive
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Jim Montgomery, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation