



## AtThe Wellfleet Bike & Walkways Committee Virtual Meeting – Zoom

Friday, April 23, 2021 at 10am

### Meeting Minutes

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

Other Town Representatives Present: none

1. *Call to Order*: Pete calls the meeting to order at 10:06.
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, [bikeandwalkways@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:bikeandwalkways@wellfleet-ma.gov), as well as proposals to the committee that can become future agenda items.
  - b. *Review committee’s official charge*: Christie 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*: The Friends of the Cape Cod Rail Trail have asked the Bike and Walkways Committee to present about their current work on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in a Zoom meeting. Pete proposes that the committee considers the Friends of the Rail Trail meeting as an official meeting and then continue with our bi-weekly meetings on Fridays at 10am.
3. *Approve minutes from committee meeting on March 26, 2021*: Christie moves that we approve the April 7, 2021 meeting minutes, Rebecca seconds, and all vote in favor.
4. *Bikeway analysis preparation*: In accordance with our analysis plan, we will do a trial run of the criteria using bikeway segments that are not part of any possible alternative routes through Wellfleet so we can conduct scoring, review the results and apply lessons learned. The timeline goal will be a week from today. Pete suggests that ideal test segments could include something that would score very high, something that would score low and something in the middle. For a high-level sample, Pete recommends the Head of the Meadow trail in Truro. Rebecca suggested the Orleans rotary for the less ideal segment, starting 100 yards before the rotary until the Orleans exit and the road at Wendy’s. Ned suggested Black Pond Road, Christie agreed that it is very helpful because of the shared features to segments we’ll have to eventually score. Rebecca pointed out that doing something in Wellfleet can be confusing. Ned suggests Old King’s Highway from Long Nook Rd. in Truro, but the group decided that is also confusing since it may be a potential segment for Truro. In Eastham, Old Orchard Rd from Bracket Rd to Nauset Rd is a potential mid-level route. Pete makes a motion that we accept the Head of the Meadow trail, the Orleans Rotary segment and Old Orchard Rd. as sample segments to be completed by noon the next Friday, Lance seconds, and all vote in favor.

The Scoring Scale (*Attachment 2*) is shared while Lance describes the scoring criteria, which is on a scale of one to five, low to high. A one means the least of the criterion you’re looking at. For instance, a score of one for the 360-degree nature criteria should mean that there is absolutely no nature around you wherever you look, whereas a five is the best you can imagine. The three is right in the middle. Don’t think of ratios, think of the extent at which something is true or untrue. It will ensure that we remain on an interval scale. Ned asks

Lance to clarify whether the five or one is considered an unachievable score or if it is something that we will find. Lance clarifies that it is not rare to score a one or five, but we should measure the extent to which a criteria occurs. Lance suggests that group members make a note about any criteria that they find difficult to use so we can adjust the process wherever necessary.

5. *Other bikeway and walkway issues in Wellfleet:* Rebecca suggests that we bring up the Bike Rodeo in the next meeting or two. A community member asks for clarity about whether Forest Rd is a route that the committee is still planning to evaluate. This route, like all routes the committee is considering, has been submitted by a member of the public, so it will be evaluated along with the others. In contrast, all the segments discussed at this week's meetings are being discussed as test segments, not for consideration as alternative routes. Pete recommends that we include two emails drafted by the committee in this week's minutes. Christie agrees to include them as attachments.
6. *Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting:* none
7. *Adjournment:* Pete adjourns the meeting at 10:58.

Attachment 1: Bike and Walkways Committee Charge

Attachment 2: Scoring Scale

Attachment 3: Bike & Walkways Committee Request for Immediate Selectboard Inquiry to the MA DCR (email sent to Selectboard on 3/26/21)

Attachment 4: Letter of Concern – Rail trail right of way issue (email to the Selectboard on 4/7/21)

**Bike and Walkways Committee, [bikeandwalkways@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto: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: Scoring Scale

**Assignment of a 1 rating means:** The path is the least desirable according to this criterion. It is deemed UNSATISFACTORY according to the criterion, demonstrates serious shortcomings, and fails to meet the intent of the criterion.

**Assignment of a 2 rating means:** The path is midway between the least and average desirability according to this criterion. It is deemed MARGINAL according to the criterion, demonstrates serious shortcomings, and barely meets the intent of the criterion.

**Assignment of a 3 rating means:** The path is midway between the least and the most desirability according to this criterion. It is deemed ACCEPTABLE according to the criterion, with a mix of shortcomings that make it acceptable in meeting the intent of the criterion but not a preferred solution.

**Assignment of a 4 rating means:** The path is midway between the average and the most desirability according to this criterion. It is deemed EXCELLENT, with few minor shortcomings in meeting the intent of the criterion.

**Assignment of a 5 rating means:** The path is has the most desirability according to this criterion. It is deemed OUTSTANDING, with the best favorability in meeting the intent of the criterion.

Attachment 3: Bike & Walkways Committee Request for Immediate Selectboard Inquiry to the MA DCR  
(email sent to Selectboard on 3/26/21)

To the Wellfleet Selectboard and the Town Administrator:

We, the Wellfleet Bike & Walkways Committee, in our advisory capacity to the Selectboard, have voted unanimously in public committee meeting today to express to you the committee's concern that the State DCR is actively developing a Rail Trail parking lot on the site commonly known as the Amsler property on Route 6 despite the DCR Commissioner's written assurance to the Selectboard that Rail Trail extension work would temporarily pause at the Wellfleet Hollow Campground. The DCR's contractor is seeking demolition work permits to clear the Amsler property of the existing buildings and trees.

As a committee, we request the Town of Wellfleet Selectboard immediately engage the DCR Commissioner to confirm the DCR is halting demolition efforts at the Amsler property and is, in fact, doing no Rail Trail related work beyond the Wellfleet Hollow Campground.

Safety concerns about this proposed parking lot led to 2019 Annual Town Meeting Article 44 being passed by the town voters, and the Selectboard's request to Gov Baker (attached) that the project be halted while safer alternatives were considered. The DCR Commissioner replied "as requested, we have placed those plans on hold for the present" and "deferred feasibility studies" of alternatives to the Town and others (attached). Our committee is engaged with other agencies in a comprehensive analysis of alternatives.

Again, as a committee, we request the Town of Wellfleet Selectboard immediately engage the DCR Commissioner to confirm the DCR is halting demolition efforts at the Amsler property and is, in fact, doing no Rail Trail related work beyond the Wellfleet Hollow Campground.

Thank you,

Town of Wellfleet Bike & Walkways Committee

//signed//

Peter Cook, Chair

Rebecca Noble, Vice Chair

Lance Miller, Member

Christie O'Campbell, Member

Ned Oliver, Member

Attachment 4: Letter of Concern – Rail trail right of way issue (email to the Selectboard on 4/7/21)

To the Wellfleet Selectboard:

As an advisor to the Selectboard, the Bike & Walkways Committee is charged to plan future bike and walking routes in Wellfleet. In performing our planning task, we uphold the principle of preserving access to private property. One of our important criteria for scoring alternative routes is: "*Criterion 4.c.1: The path does not remove the sole means of access of a private property owner to or from their property.*" As discussed at our meeting tonight, we are concerned rights of way seem not to have been addressed early or clearly in the case of the Blakely property, and we express support for the issue's successful resolution.

Thank you,

//Signed//

The Members of the Wellfleet Bike & Walkways Committee