

Meeting Minutes

Salem Bicycling Advisory Committee

Monday, September 18, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Dan Shuman (Chair), Kylie Sullivan, Joseph O’Neil, Michael Williamson, Raymond Swartz, Eric Papetti, Richard Frank, Jayne O’Leary

Members Absent: Michael Jaros

Also Present: Tom Devine, Senior Planner

Chair Shuman opens the meeting.

Meeting minutes—August 21, 2017

Williams motions and O’Leary seconds to approve the minutes and all vote in favor.

FY18 Community Preservation Plan – Request for Comment/Input

Ed Moriarty, Jr. of the Salem Community Preservation Committee (CPC) presents an overview of the eligible uses of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. He states that standalone transportation projects are not eligible unless they are a component of a recreation or open space project. Such projects should be planned in coordination with the Park & Recreation Department.

Devine recommends that the Committee issue a letter to the CPC to comment on their annual Community Preservation Plan update. The Committee asks Devine to retrieve the information Jeff Elie had gathered regarding requesting funds to construct a pump track. The Committee suggests that the CPC’s application evaluation criteria should encourage affordable housing projects to include bike facilities. Devine will circulate a draft letter for comment from the Committee.

Updates on City Initiatives

Salem Bike Share October Boost

Devine reports that Blue Cross Blue Shield and Salem State University have both recently held events to promote the bike share. Zagster is providing 18 additional bikes and a new “virtual station” option for October. The Committee discusses the logistics of the virtual stations. Devine notes that ridership has increased, thanks in part to the new Salem State hub which may be responsible for higher weekday ridership. Sullivan states that the October information booth could use information about Zagster.

Bridge Street MassWorks Project

Devine reports that the City plans to complete the design in October, start construction in the spring, and complete the project in the following fall. The Committee expresses hope that

additional improvements would be made to the intersections and frustration that the design team had not yet responded to all of the Committee's comments.

Canal Street Multi-Use Path

Devine states that Phase I of the project is likely to go beyond the fall and be completed in the spring. Phase II, extending to Salem State, will have a completed design this fall to start next spring and be completed a year from there.

Derby Street Vision

The Committee received last week's presentation to the neighborhood. There has been discussion about a contra-flow lane from Blaney to Orange Street. Devine expects that the Committee will have a chance to review any specific proposal for this. Shuman notes that Briggs Street has sharrows going against traffic, so the concept isn't unprecedented in Salem. Swartz and O'Leary remark that Toronto has many contra-flow lanes that seem to work well. Papetti says they exist in Gloucester and Cambridge as well. Devine states that a contra-flow lane is under consideration for Essex Street between North and Washington Streets.

Bicycle Master Plan

Devine states that the contract for this project has been delayed due to recent staff turnover in the Finance Department. He thinks there will be a kickoff of the Working Group in October, rather than in September. The Committee discusses which boards and committees are represented on the Working Group. Papetti stresses that the plan should be integrated into the City's overall approach to development.

Updates on Relevant Development Projects

Ferris Junkyard Redevelopment (16, 18, 20R Franklin St.)

Chapter 91 requires this project to have a nearly 100-foot wide publicly accessible open space between the water and the proposed buildings that includes a public path. Devine says that the Planning Board can require public amenities beyond the minimum required for an area like this that is not addressed in the Harbor Plan. Devine asserts that this Committee's comments would be valuable to the Planning Board. Devine will share the plans with the Committee for comment.

Brewer Hawthorne Cove Marina (10 White St.)

Devine states that this project, despite being water dependent, still is required by Chapter 91 to have some kind of a public pathway.

Miscellaneous Updates

The Committee discusses the Massachusetts Bike Coalition's upcoming bike light giveaway.

Ward 7 Councilor Stephen Dibble updates the Committee on design changes to the Canal, Jefferson, and Loring intersection that he had requested.

Papetti updates the Committee on MassDOT's bike lane striping on the Beverly-Salem Bridge.

Williamson suggests that Salem State University should subsidize bikes for students. The Committee discusses how this could be more cost effective than the University's more costly transportation initiatives. Williamson opines that the bike share program will not be enough to serve the University's transportation needs, especially when the Canal Street Bike Path is completed as a direct connection between South Salem and downtown.

Adjournment

Swartz motions to adjourn and Papetti seconds to adjourn at 8:32 pm and all vote in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Devine,
Senior Planner

Approved by the Bicycling Advisory Committee on November 20, 2017