



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 22, 2016

CDC Members: Claudia King, Chair; Caleb Hemphill; Karen Farber

Staff: Nathan Poore, Theo Holtwijk

Claudia started the meeting at 5:34 PM.

1. Review of Minutes

The draft minutes of February 10, 2016 were unanimously approved as written.

2. Review of Draft Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan

Theo reviewed the printed documents he distributed at the meeting. Nathan explained the intent of the draft resolution. The committee then discussed several potential additional projects that Theo had received comments on. He handed out e-mails from Michelle Lamb and Jim Tasse as well as a summary list of suggestions gleaned from the last public forum and on-line survey.

Upon discussion the committee agreed that pedestrian accommodations should be included in the roundabout at Route 9 and Woods/Middle Roads proposed by MaineDOT and that a sidewalk should be added on Middle Road from Bucknam/Falmouth Roads to the new roundabout. Both improvements would have a medium priority.

The committee also discussed the citizen request to add sidewalks to Bucknam Road from Middle Road to Route 1, but decided that the action should focus on investigating possible pedestrian solutions on Bucknam Road as this is a busy road with road improvements planned at northbound exit of Interstate 295 on Bucknam Road and at the Middle Road/Bucknam Road intersection. The Bucknam Road investigation will also have a medium priority.

Karen suggested to amend action #5 regarding enhanced accessible trails by adding a goal that at least one of them should be fully ADA compliant. She recommended that this action have a medium priority and that the sites mentioned should be suggested examples, not definite sites. The committee agreed with that.

There was a discussion whether to list the Middle Road sidewalk as one item or break it up in two. Claudia liked the Merrill Road to Lunt Road to be one section and Lunt Road to the Route 9 roundabout another.

Regarding action 29, the Pan Am rail line crossing, Karen wondered if this action should be included since this action was already ongoing with the Council having already established a committee for it. Theo explained that this action was included in the outreach as a test and that it received consistent strong public support. He thought that it was good to reaffirm the public support for it, but that including the action in the plan may help with obtaining outside funding support for it. The committee reviewed the explanatory text which explained the current efforts and agreed to delete the last two sentences.

Regarding actions 24 through 26, Claudia wondered what happened if the June referendum for Route 100 does not pass. In that case, the actions would still stand as a goal that the Town has for Route 100 area.

Regarding action 9, Karen suggested to make the investigation of multi-use corridors a low priority. The committee agreed with that. Nathan noted that action 33 was related, but was separated as that appeared to have some momentum behind it.

Regarding action 11, Claudia wondered what the Town's plan for bus shelters is. Nathan explained that recent lighting improvements had been made at a bus stop on Route 1 near Tyler Technologies and that a bus shelter was being planned for Clearwater Drive. He said that the Town does not have a shelter plan.

Nathan explained the plan prepared by consultant VHB for action 22 which referred to the Route 1-Route 88 intersection.

Karen suggested edits to the draft resolution:

1. #2 was proposed to read: "The Town of Falmouth, Town Council, supports the vision of the 2016 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, but not necessarily every recommended action and does not commit to the allocation of funding that will be required to implement any specific action."
2. #3 was proposed to read: "The Town of Falmouth, Town Council agrees to use the plan as a reference document in developing its Annual Work Plans, operating and capital improvements budgets, and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) development plans."

The committee agreed with these edits.

Karen felt that the overall project had gone very well and wondered if it was a model for other Town work. No citizen committee had been established, but staff made sure there was ample public input. Claudia stated that she thought a methodical and thorough process had been followed.

The committee went through the list of other suggestions that citizens had made. Clarification was asked of the Mackworth Island sidewalk and transit suggestion. Theo explained that this was meant for the causeway to the island and a bus stop at the island. Clarification was also requested for the item that noted that Route 1 needed to be crossed three times. Theo explained where that occurs. It was asked if the Town could ticket cars parked in the bicycle lane on Route 88. Nathan said that this would need to be included specifically in the traffic ordinance. There was a discussion about the proposed 4-way stop at Route 88 and Johnson Road. The committee noted the traffic calming that occurred with the centerline cone/signage at the Route 88 crosswalk.

The committee discussed next steps. Theo will make final revisions to the draft plan and send those back to the committee. No follow-up meeting will be required. The plan will be presented on May 9 and the Council will be asked to act on the proposed plan and resolution on May 23 as recommended by the committee. Public input will be taken. The plan documents will be posted and Theo will notify his outreach list of the Council dates.

There was a discussion about the Route 9 roundabout. The plan is for Jay Reynolds to reach out to MaineDOT and make them aware of the draft Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan's actions as prepared by the committee. Nathan noted that MaineDOT proposed to include a slip lane that was not desired and that that item could mean a cost savings. There was additional discussion about the proposed lighting of the roundabout. Nathan said it was important to get quality lights at that location. He also made the committee aware of a lighting RFQ that will cover four communities, including Falmouth, and will evaluate 5,000 street lights.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Draft Minutes by Theo Holtwijk
March 25, 2016