

Community Park RR Crossing Committee Minutes - September 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Staff, Lucky D'Ascanio.

Roll Call

Committee Members present: Lucky D'Ascanio (Staff Liaison), Justin Beauregard, Dave Gagnon, Daniel Pearl, and John Adelman. Ted Asherman, (LMAC Chair), Jamie Mason (Town Engineer) and Caleb Hemphill (Council Liaison) were also present.

Summary Minutes

Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks & Community Programs Director, reviewed the committee's discussion from the July, 13, 2016 meeting with regard to the committee's desire to move forward preliminarily looking at alternative routes other than the "trail through the woods".

Alternate #1 – Falmouth Rd./Twin Ponds Dr.

Jamie Mason, Town Engineer, went over two alternative routes utilizing the existing right-of-ways. Alternate #1 uses Falmouth Rd./Twin Pond Dr. Jamie stated that with improvements to existing infrastructure (i.e., sidewalks and pedestrian RR crossings) and upgrades to existing trails using the CMP Utility corridor from the school campus to the trails at the McCrann/McLaughlin properties as well as adding either an aluminum bridge (similar to the bridge at the River Point property) OR a cantilevered bridge adjacent to the MDOT Allen's Bridge could be a viable option. Several committee members were very familiar with these trails and liked this concept. Both Lucky and Jamie will visit the existing trails in the next coming weeks to gain a better understanding of the topography.

Alternate #2 – Woodville Rd./Field Rd.

Jamie also reviewed Alternate #2 which conceptually would improve existing infrastructure by adding side walks on Woodville Road and a pedestrian RR crossing as well as side walks on Field Road which would lead users to the existing trail entrance (White Trail) to Falmouth Community Park North from Field Road. The committee expressed concern with the existing topography and lines of sight with the Field Road option.

Committee Recommendation

Following much discussion, Dan Pearl, moved that the committee support the Falmouth/Twin Pond, Alternative #1 approach as its first option. He stated that this option will "in the long run add more value to more users". The committee voted unanimously to support this concept. The committee additionally stated that even if the town is able to develop a corridor through the woods, improvements to Falmouth Road need to be addressed to make it safer for bicycles as well as pedestrians. Caleb and Lucky mentioned that there are other town initiatives in place that might dovetail with a project like Alternate #1, such as the Bike/Ped Plan.

The committee also discussed continuing to pursue the potential purchase of the 5 acres of land that the Connolly's have expressed some interest in selling that could potentially link the school property with the town property.

The committee asked that staff continue to investigate the concept and will plan to update the council with a report at a late Fall or early Winter meeting.

Other Business

Dave Gagnon again, commented that the committee should not abandon the concept of an at-grade crossing should circumstances arise in the future.

And Justin Beauregard has offered to act as liaison to the Falmouth Bike/Ped Stakeholders group from the CPCC.

Meeting adjourned: 4:50pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 4:00pm Town Hall – Large Conference Room