

## **Community Park RR Crossing Committee Minutes - November 16, 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, Bob Shafto (Open Space Ombudsman), Jamie Mason (Town Engineer) and Caleb Hemphill (Council Liaison) were also present. NO QUORUM

### **Summary Minutes**

Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks & Community Programs Director, reviewed the committees discussion from the September 21, 2016 meeting with regard to the committees desire to support the Falmouth Road/Twin Pond Alternate #1. Jamie and Lucky walked the Rim Trail (McCrann/McLaughlin Land Trust property) off Falmouth Road to the school campus and agree that this trail with minimal improvements is a viable option. Justin Beauregard, liaison to the Bike/Ped Committee, stated that improving the Falmouth Road corridor is definitely a priority of the Bike/Ped Plan and that this concept will dovetail with that committees work. Staff will ensure that Theo Holtwijk, staff to the Bike/Ped Committee, is updated as to CPCC's recommendations, specifically:

1. Improve the existing Rim Trail to Falmouth Road
2. Right-of-way improvements on Falmouth Road to include sidewalks to Twin Pond Road
3. Work with MDOT to potentially add a pedestrian bridge adjacent to the existing "Corner Bridge" aka Allen Bridge.
4. Work with Pan Am RR to include a pedestrian crossing at the RR tracks

Jamie Mason, Town Engineer, will contact Pan Am to determine what a pedestrian crossing at that location will entail as well as make contact with MDOT to preliminarily discuss the feasibility of a pedestrian bridge adjacent to the existing bridge.

Lucky stated she would work with Justin Beauregard, Chair, to re-work the meeting minutes from September 21, 2016 and todays meeting to formulate an update with regard to the committee's recommendations for the council at a January meeting, tentatively January 23, 2017.

Also discussed were the updated findings from Gorrill & Palmer with regard to a future bridge crossing between the School Campus and Community Park in the event that the Town is able to secure a strip of land (approx. 5 acres) from an abutter. Those present (there wasn't a quorum) were very supportive of the continued effort to procure the property for a future connection. (It should be noted that at the September meeting all present did support this initiative as well.) Bob Shafto will confirm with G&P the minimum square footage required for this concept. Jamie Mason will research the survey for the school property and Bob will get a quote for a survey for abutting land. Bob Shafto noted that the committee should make a recommendation to the

council to purchase the land to ensure connectivity regardless of if and when a bridge or tunnel may be pursued. Staff will ask Nathan to initiate continued conversations with the abutter with regard to the sale of approximately 5 acres. Bob noted that this should be part of the committees update to the council in January.

Lucky shared information that she receive from the Town Manager that the Town of Cumberland has written a letter to Pan Am RR to request the RR consider the feasibility of a tunnel to accommodate pedestrians and snowmobiles abutting open space property in Cumberland. The letter states that neighboring communities may also benefit from tunnels in their communities (i.e., Falmouth and Yarmouth and North Yarmouth).

Meeting adjourned: 5:05pm.

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