

BIKE PATH COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 21, 2022

9:00 AM

Jamestown Town Hall

93 Narragansett Ave.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am and the following members were present:

In attendance: Samira Hakki, John Hammel, Julie Kallfelz, Rip Smith, Lisa Bryer – Town Planner, Jean Lambert – Public Works and Carrie Kolb – Planning Assistant

Not present: Jeremy Collie, Steve Engberg, Joyce Antonello and Erik Brine

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was moved by Lambert and seconded by Kallfelz to approve the minutes from August 17, 2022, as written. All in favor.

III. Review of North Road

Lambert gave an update on North Road that from the Reservoir up to Carr Lane still needs to be paved, and that public works is waiting for Cardi Construction. The path is prepped and ready to go. The stretch of road from Carr Lane to America Way, will need to get easements from home owners to work around trees. There will be a lot of public out-reach needed.

In general, the Town hired a consultant to come up with a plan for striping of the roads. Lambert will share the plans with the committee.

IV. TIP List updates

There have been a couple of meetings with DOT and projects will not start until 2025. At the last meeting there was a big brainstorming section and site visit at Zeek's creek. At the RIDOT meeting, Town Councilor Erik Brine noted that a bike lane has to be included. An idea is to get the paving projects that have been put into one lump sum, split up so projects can get completed. There are things that are easier to do that can get completed first.

DOT has federal money for a permeable pavement project. Discussion on the project ensued. The question was raised how 3 inches of permeable pavement on top of the existing road will actually work? Bryer suggested that this committee should send a letter to the Town Council. Discussion ensued if members of the committee and Rolling Agenda should send letters to legislators? There is more impact when the Bike Path Committee writes a letter.

Chief Mello has proposed some traffic safety improvements to both the Town Council and RIDOT. This will be presented at the next meeting.

V. Rolling Agenda survey and presentation review

Rolling agenda did a survey in 2021. The results showed the big mix of where people live, in Town and the Shores. The people living in each area feel the separation. A large percentage of people have felt threatened while biking on the island.

When questioned about biking to school, majority say they will not bike to school. Kids would like to ride to school, but it's not safe.

When questioned about infrastructure – students said overwhelmingly that they would ride their bikes more.

The focus is riding from shores to downtown and vice versa, but the complication is most of the ride is state roads.

There is a lot of interest about riding over bridges.

The question was raised if it was possible to get easements from the farms to be on the other side? Bryer questioned the need and answered that she doesn't know if you can get an easement because it's all protected by conservation easements. Kallfelz said that a few people could do research into the farms.

There was also a workshop held with 20 people participating. There were 4 tables with maps and each table drew on the maps. One map was consolidated with all the data, and that map moved around town to the school, library and Town Hall.

VI. Review of Committee Charge – where to go from here

Bryer suggested that the committee conduct a study similar to a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis to look at the entire island. Looking at the island through that lens will hopefully help prioritize roads on the island where improvements can be easily made and others where more work would be necessary. The final result should be a plan (that can include multiple phases) and a map. Part of the plan is to identify funding sources. Grants need to be approved by the Town Council. Some things to look at are scenic routes and straight-line routes for fast riders. It has to be a public process that includes education, for example the law states that you can ride 2 abreast and when a car passes they are supposed to leave enough room for the bicyclist to fall over.

As an aside – For the Safe Roads to School program, Bryer keeps updating and submitting information to Federal Highway. The applied for grant is for all the improvements and is more than the \$451,000 received by RIDOT. It covers everything on the school campus, in front of the library, striping, improvements in front of Lawn Ave school, and fixing by the tennis courts. Once the grant gets re-instated it will go out for bid.

VII. Future Meetings

Lambert will get an update from Gray on paving from Reservoir to Carr Lane.

Bryer will look for a template of what an outline of the plan will look like.

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Lambert will print out a large map, with a layer of town vs. residential owned land if possible, as a visual for the next meeting.

Bryer, we can also look at innovation around the country/world look at research? What are best practices?

The next meeting will be on Friday, November 18 at 9:00am.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 10:30am was moved by Kallfelz and seconded by Lambert. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Lisa Bryer and Carrie Kolb
Town Planner Planning Assistant