

Camden Rockport Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Committee
Rockport Town Office, Minutes
August 7, 2013
7:10 pm

Present: Geoff Scott (minutes), Lynda Clancy, Anita Brosius-Scott, Richard Stetson,
Robert Davis, Kathleen Bachus
Select Board Liaisons: Ken McKinley, Leonard Lookner
Guest: Bill Najpauer, Rockport Development Director

- July minutes – approved – as written with a request to turn them around more quickly
- Sani Fogel has resigned to take a position with the Rockport Recreation Committee.
- New Rockport committee member – **Action Lynda** to speak with Robin Izbet(sp?)
- Geoff reported on his meeting with Martin Cates regarding Martin’s vision of the Riverwalk. Martin feels the key is to develop destinations, or “emeralds” along the path so they can be strung together into a necklace. He suggested improving the Landing, the Tannery and Shirttail to start with. Then work toward connecting them with a pathway. He’s also interested in working on some sort of tax incentive ideas for anyone whose property may be involved with a future path. The idea would be to compensate or financially incent the landowner in exchange for land that would be used for a pathway.

Anita described a system developed by a town for incenting property owners based on a described system of points, awarded to property owners for civic minded actions they take, and ultimately to be exchanged for tax abatement. She shared the idea with TY Lin. But Sarah Withey passed on the idea of encouraging private property owners to provide easements, at least for now. Anita sent TY Lin a Public Benefit Rating system – developed in King County, Washington State. The county awards various point to a private property owners for giving public benefit related to quality of life. They’ve developed many categories for public benefit. Lots of ways to get points. Points are additive. Property tax reduction up to 90% for related “quality of life” land based on awarded points. Reduction based on market value of property. Market value can change. Turns property into a current use value.

Bill – assessors do something like this in Maine. If easements exist they adjust the value of the land. Examples: tree growth, recreational land, farm land. Currently assessors consider if you allow a snowmobile trail or a walking trail over your property. No point award system, more general.

Anita – is the point system and Augusta question or an assessor question. Bill thinks this system would need to be in State Law.

Bill – instead of cash incentive could permit a zoning benefit for something – like allowing construction of a multifamily house or construction closer to a property line. These type of incentives may also get a positive response to providing an easement.

Bill – the Town could create an ordinance for a density break if you provide public access. Basically allowing some special uses in that zoning not currently available.

- The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications offered by MDOT are due in October. The Committee feels there isn't enough time to pull together the required documents for submission so will target the 2014 cycle. The Committee identified two RTP candidate construction projects: improving the Glen Cove trail and lower part of riverwalk, from Knowlton to the middle school. Kathleen volunteered to become familiar with the RTP and take on the Riverwalk grant application.
- Camden and Rockport Pathways Master plans should be redone by Oct. Suggest a work plan and development of a Strategic Plan, a plan for how to accomplish the Master Plan. The Camden Select Board wants us to look at our Master Plan and identify our priorities. It was agreed we should also incorporate Rockport priorities and vice versa. Equal emphasis on both towns. **Action – Geoff** to email Master Plans. **Action – All Members** review priorities, update any changes since last writing, and make suggestions to improve by the Sept meeting. Consider incorporating a definition of sidewalk versus pathway versus multi-use. Ultimately we'll report out to both Select Boards and identify top priorities.
- PR – write an article about the Oct Tannery construction and encourage volunteers. **Action – Lynda and Geoff**

Write an article about tax incentives available in Maine for people who allow the community to use parts of their land (or other examples).

Write an article on the next Tannery riverwalk cleanup 9-noon, Sat Sept 14, rain date Sept 15, 2-5 pm.

- The Camden Select Board and Downtown Business Group both support pursuing the designation of being an Active Community Environment (ACE). From their website, an ACE Team encourages environmental and policy change that will increase levels of physical activity and improve public health by promoting walking, bicycling, and the development of accessible recreation facilities. Also, ACE Teams will advise policy makers and planners in supporting and enhancing community designs that encourage all citizens to be physically active in their daily lives. This is a program initiated by the President's Health Program and is part of the Community Transformation Grant program. Such a designation could help with future federal and state funding. In order for that to occur an ACE Team needs to be created to, among other things, address and complete the Rural Active

Living Assessment (RALA) Toolkit which is a Codebook and Assessment Tool. The Committee agreed this sounds like a great program to be a part of but no one volunteered to take this on. **Action – Who????**

- Town Comp plans – enthusiasm for common wording. Need a timeline. Oct meeting draft for review. **Action – Anita and Robert** will work on putting together a draft. **Action – Geoff** to reach out to Jean White again to express our interest in providing input to the plan.
- No movement on the Rockport Sidewalk Survey – **Action – Geoff** to contact Leni on sidewalk survey.
- Camden Sidewalk Survey is complete. **Action – All that worked on Camden Survey** – review your section/region and come to the Sept meeting with recommendations for your top three maintenance projects, in priority order. We will discuss at the Sept meeting and provide a final report to Rick Seibel.

Adjourned – 9 pm