

Approved Meeting Minutes

Salem Bicycling Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Williamson, Joseph O'Neill, Eric Papetti, Michael Jaros, Raymond Swartz, Jayne O'Leary

Members Absent: Dan Shuman (Chair) Kylie Sullivan, Richard Frank

Also Present: Tom Devine, Senior Planner

Williamson calls the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes: December 18, 2017 and January 22, 2018

Williamson motions and O'Leary seconds to approve both sets of minutes.

Bicycle Master Plan Update

Devine states that there were over 40 participants in the open house. Jaros notes that Toole made very good use of the large map table. Papetti says that one of the best things was getting the people engaged and educating them about options for bike infrastructure. Swartz asks if attendees supported the Committee's work. Devine responded that he observed quite a bit of positive energy and heard people comment that they appreciate the community's work to improve cycling. Papetti comments that the format works well and should be used for future transportation forums. Devine remarks that a lot of specific public input was collected through the activities.

Williamson asks what the next steps are. Devine states that Beth Isler has left Toole and Erica Guidoboni is taking over as project manager. Toole will summarize the outreach in a memo and there will be another Working Group meeting to work to identify issues, opportunities, and priorities in May. The plan is now expected to be completed in August, rather than May.

Devine states that Papetti has asked about how existing conditions are being documented. Papetti notes that pending development projects should be considered with the base data. Devine agrees that this information is important for the planning process and agrees to compile this information and submit it to Toole. Papetti also requests that Devine share Toole's scope of work with the Committee and Devine agrees to provide it.

Miscellaneous Updates

The Committee discusses options for improving bike circulation at Riley Plaza. Devine notes that the enabling project that relocated utilities from under the Washington and Dodge Street parking lot into the roadway for the new mixed use development at that location included two new bump outs, parallel parking, and a crosswalk. Members discuss adding bike facilities through such measures as removing traffic lanes or eliminating the median. The Committee notes

that the automobile-oriented character of this road network encourages cars and discourages other modes.

The Committee seeks an update on Citywide road striping, but Devine does not have information at that time. Jaros asks about work on Essex Street, from Washington to North Street. Papetti states that that project is only at the early design stage and there is not yet construction funding. Devine states that a contraflow lane might be considered on this one-way roadway.

Devine says that Zagster bikes are out for the season. The City plans to move the Salem Ferry bike share hub to a more prominent location, still near the ferry, and to establish a Salem State University South Campus popup station. Devine adds that the City is working with Zagster on an upcoming pilot program that would allow riders to start or end a ride at any bike rack. It will allow Zagster to develop and test methods to track the bikes of the small percentage of users who utilize the system by text message, rather than the GPS-enabled smartphone app.

Devine speaks about Salem Oil & Grease's project changes, which included the demolition of an existing building. Papetti states that he wondered whether that was an opportunity to change the site plan, but upon further review, believes no such changes are needed. Papetti says the 14' path and non-vehicular bridge through the site and over the river are great. The path doubles as an emergency access road, and Papetti suggests that this should be looked at as a hook to encourage other projects to include wide paths. The Committee is interested in this project and Devine agrees to share the revised plans with the group.

Devine says that the Junkyard and Canal Street projects are before the Planning Board on April 5. Williamson states that he has heard that the HMA property at the corner of North and Franklin Street has been sold. This may be an opportunity for further connections along the water. Papetti remarks that such opportunities may extend west beyond the MBTA station to Bridge Street Sports. He thinks that it may be worth considering applying for CPA funds for a design of these connections. Devine notes that previous conceptual work was done on the pedestrian crossing under the underpass and that the Public Art Commission is looking at it as an opportunity for public art. Papetti adds that MassDOT plans to conduct work on the overpass, presenting another opportunity.

Papetti seeks an update on the design of the path from the Peter Tracy Walkway to the Power Plant. Devine and Papetti discuss the funding for the project. Devine says that he will obtain the information and update the Commission.

Papetti announces that he has been in touch with Jenna Ide, Director of Municipal Operations and Capital Improvements for the City, regarding the design of improvements to Bertram Field. The site provides opportunities for connections among North Shore Medical Center, Collins Middle School, and the surrounding areas. Ide has invited Papetti to be involved in the project stakeholder group. The Committee discusses the possibilities for new connections.

Swartz states that the sidewalk work in front of the Salem Public Library has resulted in the removal of the two bike racks. Devine says he was looking at placing a standard City bike rack on that sidewalk to create a popup bike share hub. However, not only is it within the McIntire

Historic District, requiring approval by the Salem Historical Commission, but it is in a location that will receive a lot of aesthetic scrutiny, in light of the recent planning and investment into the new sidewalk treatment. Therefore, he expects that whatever goes there will require some time and attention.

O'Leary states that she has spoken with Councilor Turiel about a potential pump track project. She says he likes the idea. She says Dan Shuman had spoken to the Mayor about it too.

The Committee discusses the status of the work at Forest River Park. Devine states that in addition to the current work associated with the Canal Street Flood Control Project, the City recently hired an architect to design a new pool. Since that project could include changes to bike, pedestrian, and vehicular circulation within the park, he thinks the Committee will want to follow it.

Papetti asks for an update on the Bridge Street MassWorks project. Devine says that the Salem Conservation Commission issued its permit for the project as designed. The DEP now has an opportunity to appeal it and require design changes if they disagree with the Conservation Commission's decision.

Discussion of Election of Officers

Devine announces that Dan Shuman has said he would like to give up being Chair. Devine says he suggests that members think about who may be interested in becoming Chair and Vice Chair to be considered and voted on at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Papetti motions to adjourn, Swartz seconds, and all vote in favor.

The meeting adjourns at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Devine, Senior Planner

Approved by the Bicycling Advisory Committee on April 24, 2018