



# Westport Bike Committee Minutes 11/16/17

A meeting of Westport Bike/ Walk Path Committee was held at Westport Town Hall on November 16, 2017 at 7:35pm

**Next meeting: December 21 @ 7:15 at Westport Public Library**

**Headwaters Conservation Area walk November 26 @ 1pm**

## Attendees

Attendees included Gail Roderigues, Steve Ouellette, Marge Howland, Monica Faria, Keith MacDonald, and Bette Low

## Approval of minutes

Minutes from meeting of 10/12/2017 submitted and APPROVED UNANIMOUS \* (Keith abstained as he has not yet been sworn in by the town clerk)

## Presentation:

**Greg Barnes Town of Dartmouth Bike Committee chair, South Coast Bikeways Alliance committee member and Paul Palowski New Bedford rep to the South Coast Bikeways Alliance on “ The Vision for the South Coast Scenic Greenway”**

This presentation was accompanied by a handout “What is the South Coast Scenic Greenway?” which covers the content of this presentation and will be included in the minutes. This presentation was recorded by Westport Cable and can be viewed by contacting this committee.

## Mission Statement:

We voted on this proposed Mission Statement:

**“Westport Bike/Walking Path committee is dedicated to promoting a safe and enjoyable place for people of all ages to walk, jog or ride a bike. 1) Through planning and education we seek to make Westport a bike friendly community. 2) We will work to become an integral link in the South Coast Bikeway which will stretch from RI to Cape Cod. 3) We will work with local, state and federal entities and local businesses to create and expand cycling networks and facilitate non motorized transportation to schools, work and shopping.”**

**Action:** Steve moved, Marge seconded **APPROVED UNANIMOUS** \* Keith abstained as he has not yet been sworn in by the town clerk

## Reports:

Gail reported on the meeting of the Town of Westport Recreation committee. She did a presentation about the South Coast Scenic Greenway and told them of the need for CPC funding for a feasibility study. The committee approved our project. **ACTION** They agreed to write a letter to support us to the CPC for our funding request.

Gail and Keith attended the last meeting of the South Coast Bikeways Alliance and they report that the SCBA has made a subcommittee dedicated to the section of the trail which would pass through Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth and New Bedford. Keith was appointed to this subcommittee and reported on the status of our CPC application to them and reported that although we requested \$10,000 for our portion of the feasibility study the final total for the study may be much larger as the proposed trail may pass near the North Watuppa and Copicut both public water sources, but he also said that Massachusetts Department of Transportation may have some funding sources as might SRPEDD (South Eastern Region Planning and Economic Development District) **Action:** Keith and the subcommittee are approaching Fall River Bikeways people to help with their CPC funding request as our CPC said the lack of a commitment from Fall River CPC is problematic.

**CPC update:** Gail and Keith met with the Community Preservation Committee to submit our application for town CPC funding. The CPC asked for letters of support for our application from SRPEDD, and the Town of Dartmouth, cities of New Bedford and Fall River. They are concerned that Fall River has “no skin in the game” **ACTION** Keith’s subcommittee of SCBA will pursue Fall River

Bette reported on “Public Records Workshop” 11/6/2017 by Brian Riley at Westport Town Hall. This presentation was accompanied by a handout “A Practical guide to Open Meeting Laws, etc” which will be included with these minutes: highlights- must keep minutes for 7 years, must approve minutes within 3 meetings, meetings must be posted 48 hours before with date, time, place and a list of topics, email should be for scheduling only - do not express or ask for opinions, ideas or beliefs, committee members may meet at other public or private gatherings as long as they do not deliberate or create the appearance that they are discussing bike committee business

Trail Building Workshops report Marge and Bette attended the first Trail Building Workshop of Sustainable Trail Design, Gail attended the second workshop on Trail Building skills. both workshops were a success and provided networking with bike committee members and riders in other towns.

## Social Media:

Monica reported that we have a Facebook page ( please “like” it) She also is working on our page on the town’s website. We discussed Mat Coes of Fairhaven Bikeways committee’s offer of a free website but tabled that at the moment as unneeded.

**Action: Monica will look post our new mission statement on our Fb and website pages**

## **Education**

**We scheduled our first walk at “The Headwaters” Westport Land Trust property in North Westport- one of the potential paths the Scenic Greenway may take**

**Action: We will meet at Headwaters November 26 @ 1 pm, Gail will post for public involvement**

**We also talked about scheduling another walk over school Easter break**

## **Pedestrian issues & trails:**

**Steve talked about sites for other potential trails behind public housing on Route 6 & also Selectmen are addressing sidewalks in town and pedestrian issues after the pedestrian fatality on Route 6 last week.**

## **Adjourn**

**Motion made to adjourn 9:05pm , Seconded. Vote: Unanimous**