**Westport Bike and Pedestrian Committee Minutes: 12/21/2017**

A meeting of the Westport Bike/Walk Path Committee was held at the **Westport Town Library on Thursday December 21st at 7:15 pm**

**Next Meeting to be held on Thursday Jan 11th at Westport Town Hall 6:30**

**Attendees:** Gail Roderigues, Steve Ouellette, Marge Howland, Monica Faria

**Approval of minutes**: Minutes from meeting of 11/16/2017 submitted and approved unanimous

Updates on Scenic Greenway:

Gail reported on changes made to the Scenic Greenway proposed path, and handed out a map with updated route changes. Fall River claiming no path accessibility on the previous proposed eastern side of the Copicut Reservoir new route extends into the Bio-Reserve. She also reported on the negative press against the Scenic Greenway by an organization named Green Futures. Green Futures believes that the current route is destructive to currently conserved land and is suggesting using existing rail line. However portions of the existing rail line are either privately owned or active. Greg Barnes who proposed the Scenic Greenway route is in the process of setting up a meeting with Green Futures.

The Crapo Foundation Grant that was applied for by South Coast Bikeways Alliance for the purpose of conducing a feasibility study was not funded. It was a highly competitive funding year. SCBA is still moving forward with the intent of conducting a feasibility study.

**Report on Headwaters Walk:**

Gail reported that the walk was successful. In addition to our committee members we had press and community members that attended the event. Jeffrey D. Wagner of *The Herald News* wrote a piece for the paper that printed on November 27th, titled “Westport trail hike leads to optimism on connected path.”

**Report on Westport Community Land Trust:**

News of a possible path going through WCLT land reached the executive director Russ Moran. Gail has met with Mr. Moran and he is on board. Gail will be soliciting a letter of support from WCLT.

WCLT is also looking to sell Rulan Farms a 32 arce plot of land right off of Blossom Rd. The buyer must continue agricultural operation on the farm.

CPA progress report:

City of Fall River could potentially make timeline for CPA funding. Gail reports that its looking positive. We are hoping to soon have a Westport Recreation Department Letter for Support.

CPC progress report:

The Community Preservation Committee has invited us to attend their public hearing on January 11th at 7:10 pm on the second floor of the Westport Town Hall. At this meeting they will be voting proposed projects for appropriation at May’s town meeting. We will be asked to give a very short review of our project and answer questions which may arise. Because this meeting time is scheduled on the same date and time as our meeting. Steve suggested moving out meeting to Westport Town Hall for 6:30.

Grant Resources on the MA State Agencies:

Gail reports that we may not be ready to go after these grants however, SCBA is looking to perhaps partner with us on a “doable” project.

Events, Walks, and Outreach:

Gail proposed a walk with Mike Labossierre, Fall River City Forester, sometime in February.

Website:

Monica reported currently using towns platform.

MassDOTBike:

MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian coordinator from District 5 Tim Kochan tentatively set to come to Westport on Jan 9th if any committee/community members are interested in attending.

Future Guest Speakers:

We discussed inviting Jackie from the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District to attend one of our meetings.

Next Westport Bike/Ped Committee Meeting

Jan 11th 6:30 at Westport Town Hall.