

Martha's Vineyard Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

[Advisory to the Joint Transportation Committee]
c/o Martha's Vineyard Commission, Box 1447, Oak Bluffs, 02557 508-893-3453

October 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes Meeting held at 5:30 PM at the MVC building in Oak Bluffs

IN ATTENDANCE

Members: (**Boldface** = Present)

Karen English (TI) - 2022

Doug Finn (WT) - 2022

Berta Geller (WT) - 2020

Caitlin Jones (CH) - 2021

Doug Jones (ED) - 2021

Greg Politz (TI) - 2020

Simon Shapiro (OB), Chairman – 2022

Jim Vercruyse (AQ) - 2021

Others in Attendance:

Richard Toole; Maise Jernigan

MVC:

Bill Veno, Senior Planner; Dan Doyle, Special Projects Planner; Christine Flynn, Economic Development and Affordable Housing Planner

The Chairman opened the meeting at 5:35 PM, welcoming everyone to the committee's first virtual meeting held via Zoom, as allowed by emergency declaration by the Governor.

1. Change in Membership – The Chairman announced that Sara Piazza a few weeks earlier had submitted her resignation as the member from Edgartown, citing too many schedule conflicts. Mr. Veno had reached out to two other people from Edgartown who had expressed interest last year when the committee was being reconstituted, but neither were currently available to serve on the committee. Mr. Finn had become aware of Doug Jones as someone willing to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Piazza. Earlier today, the Joint Transportation Committee appointed Mr. Jones to serve the unexpired term, which runs until April 2021. Mr. Vercruyse suggested that in the future it would be good practice to ask candidates for a sentence or two on why they sought to BPAC. Everyone agreed.

2. Downtown Street Modifications – Local governments are looking to help provide restaurants space for outdoor seating to partially offset the loss of use of indoor seating due to the Corona pandemic. Mr. Finn reported that Edgartown has identified portions of a few downtown streets where restaurants may be allowed to place tables and chairs on fronting or nearby sidewalks and parking areas. Any areas in the parking lane will be physically separated from vehicles. The only change to vehicle circulation will be that Main Street between Water streets and Dock Street will be one-way towards the harbor. Oak Bluffs started closing Circuit Avenue to motor vehicles on Sundays. Ms. Flynn reported that selectmen this week discussed how the first Sunday closure went and decided to make some adjustments to improve the operation. The Chairman noted his concern that bikes do not seem to be

sufficiently planned for, particularly bike parking. He is keeping the bike parking issue in front of the town as it pursues its downtown streetscape plan.

3. Shared Streets Grant Program – Mr. Veno referenced a new grant program through Mass. Dept. of Transportation (MassDOT) that can provide funds to towns for temporary measures to facilitate social distancing such Edgartown and Oak Bluffs are undertaking, but are also targeted to increasing accommodation of cyclists, pedestrians and transit users. Towns can apply for three different projects under the grant. Applications are due mid-September.

4. Updates

a. Up-Island SUP Planning: Mr Doyle reviewed efforts to assess the potential for creating a Shared Use Path in Chilmark and West Tisbury. Of the three main roads extending the length of Chilmark, North Road appears to have the fewest obstacles when weighing the number of small parcels abutting the roadway, structures within 100 feet of the road, conservation land, and grade changes. It is also apparent that substantial portions of a SUP would have to be entirely outside the road right-of-way to protect stone walls. Mr. Doyle and Mr. Vercruysse have arranged for South Mountain to prepare a couple of illustrations to aid discussion of the SUP concept. The group discussed options for how to proceed with engaging town boards, landowners, and the broader public.

b. West Tisbury: SUP along Old County Road: Ms. Welch reviewed that the proposal to create a SUP along Old County Road from State Road south to Scotchman's Lane will come before Town Meeting in the fall. The rationale for proposing the SUP on the west side of Old County Road opposite where most of the homes are is because of the higher number of roads on the east side and the higher volume of vehicles that would be crossing a SUP on that side.

c. OB Beach Road SUP: Mr. Veno reviewed some of the main points in the MVC's comments on the 75% design plans for the SUP planned to run from the drawbridge to County Road. The width of the SUP is now 10 feet wide and proposes a center line stripe. The design retains introducing granite curbs and up to grass strips up to 5 feet wide to buffer the SUP and roadway. MVC has asked for an explanation why using instead a split rail fence as has been approved elsewhere was dismissed as an option. An explanation has also been requested to understand the reasoning for not pursuing a mini roundabout the at the intersection of Eastville Avenue and County Road. Finally, Mr. Veno highlighted the need for appropriate signage and pavement markings for Tomahegan Avenue where a lot of cyclists from East Chop will presumably opt to cross two lanes of traffic to access the SUP. The project is still slated to be advertised by year's end.

Adjourned 6:37 PM

Next scheduled meeting: 5:30 PM, Wednesday, July 15, 2020 [virtual via Zoom]

Documents used in this meeting:

- MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Program
- MVC April letter to MassDOT commenting on 75% Design Plans for Beach Road SUP
- OB Beach Road SUP 75% Design Plans

Compiled by Bill Veno

