

Approved Minutes  
Bike Path Design Committee  
Town Hall – Wednesday, January 7, 2009

I. Call to order

Robert Sutton called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

II. Roll Call.

Voting members present:

Robert Sutton, David Burnell, Susan Plowden, Lisa Bryer, Nancy Logan, Julie Kallfelz (left early)

Absent was Kate Smith

Non-voting members present : Bruce Keiser (Town Administrator), Lambri Zerva (RIDOT)

Also attending: Justin Jobin (Environmental scientist for the town)

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the December 3, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. Discussion of North Road Alternatives, Review of Existing Conditions, Plans, Photographs, etc. Route 138 south to Arnold Avenue.

Justin Jobin provided very detailed photographs of the area on large map and projected on a screen.

A possible boardwalk (east side of North Road) was discussed in the area between Rte. 138 and Watson Farm. Approximately 2,200 feet of boardwalk would be needed in this wetlands area.. Lambri Zerva, DOT, estimated cost of boardwalk could be approximately \$200,000 per 100 ft. (\$4,000,000)

A boardwalk would also be needed on the west side of North Road from the Water Plant past the creek culvert overpass to south boundary of town property (1,600 ft). Projected length of the 2 boardwalks, 3,800 ft.

The Committee discussed at length the possibility of widening North Road in these areas. Route 1A bicycle lanes in North Kingstown was cited as an example. The width of Route 1A is 39 ft. total, including two 13 ft. travel lanes.. North Road is 29 ft. shoulder to shoulder, with two 11 -12 ft. travel lanes. There is not enough space for adequate width bike lanes.

Summary: We need to dismiss North Road as a legitimate road for bikes lanes on both sides. It would have to be widened by 7-8 feet.

Another alternative is East Shore Road which is a total of 37 ft. in width . However, traveling toward the village, the road is too narrow for any bike lanes south from Bay View Drive to Conanicus Avenue. It cannot be widened.

Potential problems on North Road – Serious drainage problems. To widen the road on both sides could cost \$2,300,000 a mile . Widening the road would also have safety problems for children bicycling to school. Parents would trust children cycling on dedicated off-road bikepaths more than widened lanes. Motor vehicle traffic would be more likely to go faster with a widened shoulder for cycling..

Aerial views were studied. The bike path going south (on the east side) would cross the road just north of the water plant. South of the water plant the second boardwalk would begin (on the west side). There are potential problems going south from Zeeks. It would be possible to have a horizontal shift of North Road travel lanes to the east on the hill from Zeeks to Whittier Road, to allow space for the bike path on the west. Drainage would need to be improved on both sides of the road in this specific area. A buffer area between bike path and residential homes will be created if possible.

V. Arnold Avenue to Intersection of Narragansett Ave/Southwest Avenue will be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. No other business

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm The next meeting will be on February 4, at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Logan, Recording Secretary.