**Harwich Bikeways Committee Minutes**

**January 19,2024**

**Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am

**Attendees**: Fran Salewski(virtual), Alain Ferry, Paul Gazaille, Charles Walkley, Charlene Pilon

Approval of the November 6 Minutes: Minutes were approved

**New Business**:

**1. Committee Vacancies**:

Charlene announced she is resigning from the committee and this would be her last meeting. Her reason for resigning is the lack of support shown the committee by the Board of Selectmen/Administration. Alain would like to wait until he has discussed the idea of modifying the scope of the committee with Julie Kavanaugh before recruiting new members. He expects to meet with Julie in late Feb. In the meantime Charley will reach out to members of the cycling group in the Chatham-Harwich Newcomers group for possible new members.

**2. Vulnerable Roadway Users Law**:

***a. Digital signs***: Charlene reported that she spoke with Lt. Goshgarian from Harwich Police (and a member of the Traffic Safety Committee) re: use of the large digital signs to make drivers aware of the new law. He asked that our committee submit dates and locations for the signs and do so well in advance. His email address is agoshgarian@harwich-ma.gov. Alain to follow up with Lt. Goshgarian to confirm where and when the signs should be placed.

Charlie reported the DCR has 3-4 digitals signs that could be used on the OCRT. He will contact the new staff person (Eric’s replacement) to discuss. Alain recommended the signs be placed close to/during Bike Safety Week/Month (check MassBike website for exact dates).

***B .Mailing***: Paul attended 2 Board of Selectmen meetings asking that the Town include a mailing about the new law in the excise tax bills. There was concern that the mailing might increase the cost. The Board does not seem to be in favor of this request. Alain suggested the committee use digital marketing instead and will take the lead on this.

***c. Road signs***: Paul reported the street signs have been installed by the DPW dept. Charlene brought up the fact there are no signs on Church Street but it is possible the locations were changed from the original list. The Committee is pleased that the signs are installed.

***d. J1 students bike lights***: Charlene reported that Colleen Mederios from the CCC called asking for support from the Bikeways Committee to supply lights to J1 students. The J1 Program Facilitator, Gail Meyers-Lavin, is looking for help from Cape Cod towns to supply 2000 J1 students with a front and rear light for their bicycles. Charlene told her we were going to apply to the Mass Bike Light Brigade program for up to 50 lights set. Colleen asked if the committee could reach out the Harwich Police Dept who may have access to grant funding for the lights. Charlene wrote an email to Lt. Goshgarian in early January regarding this but has not heard back. Paul will follow-up on this.

Charlene printed the application for the Mass Bike Light Brigades program. The Committee has to host an event to hand out the lights and submit a report to Mass Bike afterwards. Paul agreed to complete the application and the Committee will discuss more details at the Feb. meeting.

e. Charlene showed 2 items from the Cape Chronicle; one a letter to the Editor expressing lack of support for the new law and the second an editorial congratulating the Town of Chatham for the installation of signs to inform the public about the new law.

**3. Update on the Bikeways Committee Charge**:

 Alain will take action on this item in late February by meeting with Julie Kavanaugh.

**4. Trail Update**:

Charlie reported that he attended a Transportation Committee Meeting with Lincoln Hooper that was attended by approximately 40 State employees where they discussed the re-paving of the CCRT/OCRT. He was impressed by the support they expressed. No specific timeline is available at this time. He expressed his gratitude for Lincoln Hooper’s support and leadership as it pertains to the trail.

Charlie followed up with Falmouth Bikeways regarding how they removed the bumps/heaves in the pavement. It won’t be possible to use their equipment on the CCRT/OCRT. However, Lincoln has equipment he can use to minimize the bumps on the OCRT, especially the one near Depot Road, and the DCR has equipment to deal with the ones on the CCRT. Further to that Alain recommended the committee work with Lincoln to apply for Mass Trails Grant to cover the expenses. He feels that the project would qualify. Alain and Charlie agreed to review the application and work with Lincoln to apply for a grant due in 2 weeks.

**5. Next Meeting**: Thursday Feb. 15 at the Community Center. Paul and Fran will attend virtually

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am