Harwich Bikeways Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2018;  5:00 p.m.

Harwich Community Center

100 Oak Street, Harwich, MA 02645

Attendees:  Paul Gazaille, Shanna Nealy, Bruce Paige, Andrew Docken.  
  
The meeting began promptly at 5:00 p.m.    
  
The meeting notes / minutes from the Feb. 21, 2018 meeting were approved.  
  
The Committee recognized that the May Town Meeting will include a vote on whether to proceed with the Pleasant Lake General Store / Rt. 124 crossing lights.  Committee members discussed being prepared for questions / issues that could arise if there is any discussion re. this subject at the Town Meeting.  
  
For the OCRT celebration, the Committee acknowledged that the Cranberry Festival would be the location with dates to be determined.  A celebratory group ride was again mentioned (with a suggested 16 mile route from Brooks Park to the Harwich Rotary and back).  Several ideas for raising funds were suggested - a registration fee, a t-shirt sale.  It was also suggested tying this to a Food Pantry donation (or other networking with the Food Pantry).  A bike corral at the Festival is also being considered.  Paul may contact Ed McMannus to check some of these ideas.  
  
Eric Levy has indicated that bench repair at the Harwich Rotary would be proceeding in the near future.  Fran has indicated that he has been in the touch with the Newcomers Group for potential assistance with this.  Also, tree damage and accompanying trail blockage would be remedied soon (after similar tree damage in Nickerson State Park is completed).  
  
The Committee acknowledged that the joint Harwich / Chatham meeting that had been scheduled for the March 15 was postponed due to weather and related power / electricity failure.  This joint meeting has been rescheduled for April 5, 2018.  Some anticipated topics at this meeting will be a potential Facebook page and a logo for the OCRT.   
  
The joint committees meeting (held March 7) initiated by the Orleans Bike and Pedestrian Committee was briefly discussed.  The meeting topics included safety, the Complete Streets program, and the sharing ideas between groups.  The Harwich Committee had one attendee due to weather and work commitments but indicated willingness for future participation.    
  
Bruce gave an update re. possible maps to be used / implemented in the future.  His three options were a maps developed by, respectively, Harwich, the Cape Cod Commission, and Chatham.  Bruce and the group seemed to prefer the map developed by Chatham.  The map would need to be extended west to show Harwich;  cross roads and mile markers may also need to be added.  
  
Some of the kiosks along the OCRT are damaged (esp. the one at Depot road).  It was suggested that Linc be contacted re. this issue.  
  
Bruce provided an update re. issues with the handheld device that interfaces with the crossing lights:  apparently, after being re-tested, the device is now working properly.  But we haven't been able to upload any new data from the crossing points.  
  
The Committee recognized that OCRT fencing would need to be evaluated so as to ascertain any areas in dire need of repair.  After some of the inclement weather passes, it was suggested that members attempt to assess which areas need improvement.  
  
Paul indicated that he would contact Linc to get an overview of the how trail budgetary concerns were going to be handled, and perhaps gauge whether trail signs would be within the current / future budget(s).  The Committee wants to find out if there is anything in FY2019 line item budget earmarked for these issues.  
  
The group is keeping an eye on the ongoing CCRT trail expansion.  It was acknowledged that Fran would be a valuable contact re. this issue, as he is a member of the Friends of the Cape Cod Rail Trail.  It was mentioned that although the new bridge in Yarmouth may be finished this summer, the apparent "hand-off" and target completion is not scheduled to occur until November.  
  
  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.    
Next meeting April 18 5 PM Harwich Community Center