

Lewiston-Auburn Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
Meeting Minutes
1/23/13

Members in Attendance: Craig Saddlemire, Bob Rand, Pattie Reaves, Sherie Blumenthal, Jeremiah Bartlett, Mark Fuller

Staff: Gary Johnson, Ed Barrett, Richard Burnham

Guests: Roger Bickford (Lisbon Town Council), Steve Eldridge (Lisbon Town Manager)

Updates

Bob met with Peggy – She is sponsoring a bill for a study to implement a state complete streets policy.

Gary – Sent out snowplowing map for Auburn. Clint had some concerns about ordinance vs policy. We are passing a policy, which will likely result in the development of ordinances affecting land use and tech standards. But we are only presenting a policy to council.

Mark – There was follow up on the bridge going over the Little Androscoggin. There will be room for bikes on both sides with 5' shoulders.

Jonathan LaBonte wanted to be here but couldn't make it because of a family emergency.

Approval of Minutes 1/9/13

Amendment made to minutes correct Bob's name. Mark made motion to accept minutes with amendment, Jeremiah seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Rail to Trail From Lincoln to Exit 80 to Lisbon

Steve Eldridge explained that there are 4 miles of existing trails in Lisbon, paved, restricted to non-motorized (except for snowmobiles). 45% of people who use trail are from out of town. Another 2 mile stretch will run from Sabattus river and follow Androscoggin to Lisbon falls. It emerges near restaurant. Plan is to put in multi-use trail to connect to Lewiston, similar to Sunrise trail. It could connect to Topsham, Bowdoin, Sabattus. If we make the trail, people will come. It goes by beaver park. Most of the restaurants would be within close distance. Roger would like to see trail go to Grid-Iron. The rail is currently very over-grown. Some of the railroad bed has washed out. Bates students did a study on creating a multi-use trail. DOC has a very good slideshow on how they did the Sunrise Trail. They had sponsors. The railroad in Lewiston is owned by Pan-Am. In Lisbon, it is owned by DOT but Pan-Am has a 99 year lease. No one in Lisbon is doing enough business to warrant freight service. It is not expected that Pan-Am wants to give up rights. But, if we work together, maybe we can make something happen. We want the trail to come all the way to Cedar St downtown. Mark said he thought it would be hard to get the trail if it is owned by the state. A land trust would be better. Ed brought up the concern that there might be a patchwork of owners who will get rights back to the trail if Pan-Am gives up their rights to it. First step is seeing if Pan-Am would be willing to give up the line. Nate Moulton works in rail at DOT. It would

be good to meet with him. L-A Railroad Company also owns some of the line. LA Railroad has an active line in Auburn. Lewiston still needs to officially say they don't want the train to come down Lincoln Street. It would cost \$20 million dollars to upgrade the rail from Lisbon to Lewiston for freight service.

Next Steps: Meet with Nate Moulton (DOT)

Brian Bronson – at DOC has slideshow of Sunrise Trail (Craig will ask for it)

Bob will notify BCM what we're up to

Steve will contact Nate to see when he is available. Mark, Ed, Roger, Steve, and Rick will meet with Nate Moulton first.

Complete Streets Policy

-Ed presented the changes in the policy. LCIP's will be presented to bike ped to weigh in on projects.

-New language in exception d clarifies "ordinary maintenance" vs paving and reconstruction.

-The exception process is clarified in terms of what triggers a potential change, and how it is resolved

-There was consensus that this is a good document

-Mark asked about the LCIP process. Ed explained that LCIP is a plan that you make before the budget. Then you do the budget. In some cases you bond for LCIP projects. But many projects do not get done that year. LCIP plans for the next five years. Not everything will get done in the first year. LCIP's get made before funding.

-We want the word "should" changed to "shall" (in paragraph 3), we will use LABPC throughout document after its first use,

-Mark moved that we forward the policy to the respective planning board, Pattie seconds, (motion passes 6-0)

-Lewiston Planning Board meets Feb 11th, Auburn Feb 12th, 30 minutes to present staff and committee rep.

-Jeremiah will check if he can make it for Auburn, if other members can make it, that would be good

-Pattie will present with Craig on Feb 11th in Lewiston

Next meeting is February 13th, 5pm in Lewiston. We will discuss steps about how to update tech standards to make document work. Also, Snow Removal and Sidewalk policy.