

Shore Road Pathway Committee

September 24, 2008

Present at Meeting:

Paul Thelin, Committee Chair, David Backer, Town Council Representative , George Morse, Andie Mahoney, Bill Nickerson, Josef Chalot, Suzanne McGinn, Howard Littlefield William Nickerson, Dena DeSena,

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner, John Mitchell and Betsey Melrose, Mitchell and Associates

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Public comment and question:

Sally Hadley – 1191 Shore Road “Not crazy about idea” “Might as well put the path way through someone’s kitchen. “ “ You did not look at the ocean side.”

Margie Sargent – “In favor of the path way.”

Fran Haywood –“ I am shocked that there is not a cost estimate. “

Gail Atkins –“If you go shopping for a sofa wouldn't you want to know the price. You are asking people to vote in a forum without knowing the facts.” Reply: David Backer . The town council will study the cost of the project and have another forum for the public.

Alice Rand –“Will you have DEP wetland approvals?” Reply: Maureen O'Meara, Yes there are 5 wet land areas.

Paul Bolger – Are you taking private land? Reply: Maureen O'Meara The committee will not take private land, only what is in the Right of Way, unless it suits the landowner that the path moves to avoid taking a tree etc. down. Paul Bolger asked: Will you compensate the landowner then? Reply: It may be possible.

Please see the Principles that the committee adopted

Fran Haywood – Pathway may decrease property values and will we than get a Tax deduction or compensation for the lost of value? George Morse: Started some research on economic impact and many examples where values increased.

Paul Thelin closed the public discussion after 35 minutes to continue on with the meeting.

Motion to approve 8-20-2008 minutes made by Dena DeSena, 2nd by Andy Mahoney: All approved. David Backer abstained as he was not at the last meeting.

Letter from Anne Van Lonkhuyzen: Corrections from last minutes: She never said that there is an “economic benefit “and she is opposed to the proposed pathway”.

Review of Abutter Meetings:

Paul Thelin asked the committee to give a brief statement regarding the how the abutters feel after their meeting.

Andy: Some concerns about water: wetlands: turtles: bikes riding on pathway: runners: Who is going to be allowed to use the path?

Josef: Some concerns about how wide the path should be. Is 5 feet too small; Safety issues concerns.

Howard: Some concerns about riding bikes

Andy: There should be no exercise bikes (“Spandex bike riders”) on the path.

Bill: People are courteous and people in other parts of the town on the sidewalks move over and slow down to let others pass. The path will meander and it will slow down everyone.

John Mitchell stated that to have adult bike traffic one would need at least an 8 foot path.

Andy: stated that some of the residence in Sherwood Forest would like the path to go to their road so they might use it to walk to the town center.

George: Most of his abutters were supportive because they see a safety issue without the path. Others wanted to see the plan first before making a comment. The one not in favor of the path said it would change the character of the road.

Howard: His group was mixed; against because of cost; Road is already unsafe and this will bring more people and make it real bad. Concerns about moving plants and trees; most wanted stone dust path.

Paul: some of his abutters thought it would bring people from afar and make it very dangerous.

Bill: Noted there was a lot of misinformation. As they talked and as people understood more, Bill thought that many of the abutters saw the path in a favorable light. Bill stated that people just don’t like change. Some of his abutters were worried about their privacy.

Josef: 2 families were for the Path and 2 were not. Fear of hordes of people from the “Outside” would come in. Path should be as close to Shore Road as possible. One person thought the Path to be a good idea for walkers and their safety. Most thought stone dust for path surface was a good idea. One lady with a child in a wheel chair thought the stone dust would be fine. Many felt strongly that we save the trees and walls.

Suzanne: 2 abutters were against the plan, 1 was for it. There were drainage, tree and safety issues. Some were concerned about snow removal. There was a concern that if there were many on the path, then others would have to walk on private property to go around them.

Bill: stated that 2 towns in Massachusetts that look much like Cape and had beautiful paths and we should look into them. Carlyle and Osterville, Mass

Howard: showed slides he took of a large path at the University of Vermont.

Bill: stated that there are many studies that show that a path or trail next to a home increases the value of that home.

Paul: met with the Robinson family and the Land Trust. The Land Trust will wait to see the plan to make any comment. The Robinson family at first opposed the idea of a path but at the end were much happier with the idea that no more than two trees might have to be removed along their property.

Maureen said she would draft letters to the two land owners who did not schedule a meeting.

Review of Existing Conditions:

John Mitchell and Betsy Melrose presented the colored survey and map with photos to the committee. Mr. Mitchell went step by step down both sides of Shore Road showing us where the constraints and problems were. The presentation was very thorough and detailed. No design work on the path itself has been done yet.

John Mitchell stated that to cross the road one needs 350' clear sight.

David Backer asked about the 1,044 ' of wetlands and Maureen explained how her office made a linear measurement along the road where wetlands were within 10' from the edge of the traveled way. The amount of impact might be less if one puts the path closer to the road. John Mitchell asked us to pick a side of the road so he might design a path. It was obvious to all that the path had to be on the land side. Dena stated that while she was always hopping for the water side she had to say the Land side was the only side that the path could go on. The committee voted 9-0 to proceed with a concept plan for the path located on the land side of Shore Rd.

John Mitchell requested to meet with the Land Trust two days before he meets with us next month (October 27th) and show them the concept plan he has made for the Land Trust Land only. The committee approved this.

Paul Thelin thanked John and Betsy for the wonderful presentation.

Ending comments from the public:

Bikes belong on the street; snow removal will be a problem; I don't want extra snow in my driveway; children on bikes on path will be a liability to the town; road flooded at Dyer Pond and it will need a very tall bridge; People drive at 40 to 50 miles per hour and children will get killed. Silly to talk about Path increasing property values – not true. We want to see our comments from meetings on the Path so we can edit them.

George stated the spirit of taking down people's concerns was to:

#1 to see and study individual's aspects of each property and the owner concerns.

#2 to learn new ideas about how a path could be done better on each property.

Comments not intended to be tallied as a vote for or against the path. The committee decided not to circulate comments for abutters to edit and sign off on.

Paul Thelin closed the meeting at 9:35 PM

Next meeting is October 29, 2008

Respectfully,
Dena DeSena