

**Shore Road Path Committee
Public Forum
November 19, 2008**

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Shore Road Path Committee Members: Paul Thelin, Howard Littlefield, Joe Chalot, Susan McGinn, Ron Nickerson, Andy Mahoney, Dena DeSena, George Morse

Town Council Representative: David Backer

Town Planner: Maureen O'Meara

The Public Forum was opened by Shore Road Path Committee Chair, Paul Thelin who welcomed all present and asked Committee Members to introduce themselves. Thanked Town Planner, Maureen O'Meara for her phenomenal help in going through the planning process. Commented on the work of consultant, John Mitchell on the draft plan that will be introduced to the public during the evening.

Committee Members talked about the Committee charge, funding of the study, public participation plan, principles of path design, survey, concept plan, cost estimate and recommendation to Town Council.

Paul Thelin introduced John Mitchell who gave detailed presentation about the draft plan in 13 sections. In the presentation he showed the planned path on Shore Road, real life pictures of the area and simulation on present and future look.

At 8:00 p.m. -- after the presentation Paul Thelin asked everyone to tell their names and address before they comment on the project. Comments were limited to 3 minutes.

Mary Ellen Whiteman, 1185 Shore Road -- opposed the path; said that path would narrow the road, would increase danger, path is too close to the road, serious bikers would remain on the road, not on the path.

Richard Berman, 7 Wabun Road – supported the path; said that Committee did a fabulous job and thinks that the path is not long enough. He would like to see the path as far away from to road as possible and would like something to be put between the path and the road. He believes it is a great idea, would bring neighbors closer to each other and he is willing to donate money for the path and/or pay more taxes.

Ray Schevenell, 189 Fowler Road – in favor of the path; he thinks that path would eliminate safety hazards on the road. He would like to see the speed limit on the road be reinforced. He thinks that dogs should be kept on short leash on the path.

Alice Rand, 1222 Shore Road – against the path; she believes that the road is not supposed to be a recreational place, the design is not safe, and crosswalk invites trouble. She doesn't want any change on this historic road. At the same time she appreciates the efforts of the Committee and the opportunity to express her opinion.

Christopher Straw, 97 Shore Road – tentatively supports the path; he is concerned about the character change of the road and thinks that the path is not long enough. He would prefer a crushed rock or rubber surface for the path.

Alison Stewart, 16 Olde Colony Lane – she supports the path; she would love to be able to walk to school and to Fort Williams Park. She likes that the plan keeps the trees.

Sharon Siegel, 37 Stonybrook Road – supports the path, she is talking on behalf of his brother too. They believe that this path will bring people together and hope that the path will give opportunity to people to get out and walk and exercise more. Speed limits needs to be reinforced. His brother is worried about the timing of the project in the recent situation of the economy.

Tom McNery, 29 Old Fort Road – supports the path 100% and hopes that it will motivate young and old to exercise more.

Roger Rioux, 5 Bridal Path Way – supports the path because it is a high risk area and he doesn't take the risk to walk there now.

Bronwyn Huffard, 30 Oakhurst Road – very much favor of the path as a motorist and as a mother. Safety is her high priority. Thanked to the Committee for the great job they've done.

Jim Tasse, 30 Cliff Avenue – committed to path and believes it will dramatically improve safety. He believes that crosswalks will calm traffic.

Jim Kerney, 1015 Shore Road – supports path. Believes that this is the right thing to do. He knows that easy to avoid change but safety can not be avoided. He would be willing to give up land and/or pay more taxes.

Mary Anne Lynch, 20 Old Colony Lane – supports the path, appreciates the great effort of the Committee. She believes the path will increase safety.

Katie Gilman, 11 Cragmore – 8 years old and would like to have the path because she could walk to playground and that would be healthy.

Hannah Bosworth, 3 Old Fort Road – she would like the path so she could bike to school, now it takes 35 minutes by bus.

Hanna Dineen, 31 Lawson Road – she would like the path so she would be able to run and bike to school. It is not safe now and shouldn't wait for anything fatal to happen. She loves the beauty of the road.

Sandy Dunham, 12 Becky's Cove – against the path as she never felt unsafe on Shore Road. Design of path is fairly good but trees will need to be removed, others might die after construction work. People should find other places to walk.

Tom Dunham, 12 Becky's Cove – against the path, people should walk face to traffic and use common sense.

Betty Crane, 9 Starboard Drive – did consider path, and suggests having the path from Robinson Woods to Fort Williams as it is one bad curve. There are plenty of other places to exercise. Had no safety problem yet.

Jennifer Aronson, 27 Lawson Road – strongly supports the path. She thinks it is dangerous now to walk there. Would be great for exercise.

Roy Strunk, 6 Tide Edge Road – strongly supports the path. Travelled internationally and found that path on the road is a measure everywhere. Changing times require changing habits too. Beach to Beacon participants, number of joggers and bikers are growing from day to day, Cape Elizabeth can not stay behind times.

Kathy Barber, 1175 Shore Road – supports the path. Thanked for the good communication with the public. She grew up on Shore Road and now she can not let her kids bike on the road. Her family will loose hedges, but believes this is a small price to pay for security.

Paul Bulger – lawyer of the Robinson family – read the letter of the Robinson family strongly oppose the path.

Linda Jacobs, 1203 Shore Road – against the path and believes that Committee didn't follow their charge. The plan would take away the character of the road.

Karen Miller, 20 Beach Bluff Terrace – suggested to consider the possibility to make the Shore Road one way instead of the path.

Faith McLean, 1151 Shore Road – does not support the path and believes that more than 50% of the abutters not in favor of the path and they are the owners of a greater percentage of land on Shore Road.

Kay Sze, 204 Delano Park – supports the path and thinks that it would be safer for everyone. Noted that a changed character of the road won't be necessarily a worse character.

Sarah McCall, 4 Avon Road – favor of the path and would encourage everyone to get out and walk, run, bike and never speed.

Jo Morrisey, 20 Old Fort Road – in favor of the path and thinks this is in the best interest of the community. She said that times are changing and the path is part of the change too. People should get out more, walk more, run more, bike more.

David Plimpton, 1000 Sawyer Road – strongly oppose project. He would rather spend money on another police car to enforce speed limit. He wants safety for the whole town, not only for those using Shore Road.

Alison Darling, 35 McAuley Road – not in favor of the path. She raised questions on parking, trash collection, road maintenance and snow plowing of the path.

Paul Philips, 8 Littlejohn Road – not in favor of the path. He believes that if the path is there it would invite people from further away too. Crossing the road is dangerous as it is now and would be more dangerous if path is built. He thinks that soft surface is not a solution as bikers would be back on the road then.

Amy Lombardo, 11 Leighton Farm Road – in favor of the path. In her opinion path would be safer as drivers would know where to expect people. If this project is a success, path could be built elsewhere too.

Bill Downs, 15 Olde Colony Lane – not in favor of the path. He noted that there was no pedestrian accident on Shore Road. He thinks that more studies, surveys need to be done on infrastructure, side walk requirements, and numbers of potential users.

Bob Baross, 5 Maiden Cove – he looked at Community Report on roads and Shore Road was the worst.

Hope Straw, 597 Shore Road – supports the path and has concerns with the character of the path surface and finds this a critical issue.

Abby Hirshon, Lawson Road – in favor of the path. She is learning to drive and afraid on Shore Road. It would be better to be able to bike to school.

Nancy Sears, 17 Linwood Street – against the path but commented on the circulated clipboard to express opinion and thanked the Committee for their work.

Andrea Kouros, 6 Hillcrest Drive – supports the path. She noted that people are already coming to Shore Road from elsewhere, the Beach to Beacon participants train here. Her handicapped daughter's dream is to ride her wheelchair to school.

Lisa Bowman, 1183 Shore Road – moving out of town, but was interested to hear what others are saying. She thinks the path would be too narrow. More people on road would

mean higher safety risk. She believes that Shore Road is big part of Cape Elizabeth and should stay as is.

Gail Atkins, 1189 Shore Road – strongly against the path. She believes the path would give a false sense of security. She would like to see a survey on everything that will be changed. In her opinion the character of the road can not be saved, neither trees nor bushes, etc. She thinks it is time to alarm people.

Nancy Jordan, 6 Robin Hood Road – strong supporter of the path. She said that the path will preserve the beauty of the road. She believes that even if the path is narrow it will be much safer.

Ogden Williams, 5 Beach Bluff Terrace – came undecided and now he is in favor of the path now. He said that the plan is sensitive, thoughtful and showed care of overall area. He believes that the path will be better, safer for all of Cape people.

Bion Richards, 29 Olde Colony Lane – supports the path and he is proud to make this change.

Casha Kerney, 1015 Shore Road – strongly supports the path. Collected 500+ signatures supporting path and submitted the list to the Committee.

Jennifer Smith Brock, 7 Toll Pine Road – in favor of the path and will be happy to let the kids bike there.

Alvin Bugbee, 31 Cottage Farms Road – big fan of the project as a jogger and marathon runner. The path would be used as a training site too and this is wonderful. He would like to see proper signage on the path.

Steve Whittier, 1022 Shore Road – in favor of path. He said that people come here from far away already to the Portland Headlight and this is a good thing. Vehicle traffic is extensive, and patrol should be increased to slow down traffic. She believes that it wouldn't make sense not having the path as situation can only be better.

Paul Bulgar, 8 Lydon Lane – against the path. He doesn't know what the purpose of the path is. He believes that path wouldn't be wide enough for bikers, joggers and walkers. Path should be used only for pedestrians. He was worried about winter maintenance as he doesn't think it can be properly cleaned and this way it would be a seasonal pathway only. In his opinion Cape parents would never send their kids to school by bike.

Committee Chair, Paul Thelin thanked everyone present for their comments and concerns and closed the meeting.

Meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.

