

Kure Beach Bike/Ped Committee
Meeting Minutes: 02/05/2024
Recorded by CAF

Present Members: Mo Linquist (ML), Cindy Maier (CM), Candy Ashton-Forrester (CAF), Eileen Clute (EC), Will Reynolds (WR,) Al Krum (AK), Steve Shumate (SS), Jerry Clark (JC)

Guests/Citizens: Jennifer Ames, Yvonne Bailey, Carolina Beach Bike/ped Committee

Staff/Council: Sean Gear, John Ellen, Commissioner and Committee Liaison

Absent: Greg Germain (GG)

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to order	10:00 AM by ML	
Roll Call	See above	
Approval of Agenda	Additions, introduction by Commission Ellen Motion to approve by JC, seconded by SS	Motion approved
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve as amended Jan. 04, 2024, minutes as amended by SS, seconded by AK	Motion approved
Public Comment	Jennifer Ames: She reminded the committee that Howard Ames sent email in June 2020 to the Committee informing them he had contacted NCDOT regarding signage at the corner of Ft. Fisher and M Ave. notifying drivers of the state law requiring them to stop when pedestrians are in the crosswalk. Such a sign should not need NCDOT approval since it would be placed on an existing sign. ML thanked Jennifer for her concerns and persistence with this issue and will look into this.	
Presentation	Commissioner John Ellen (JE) introduced himself as this was his first meeting with the committee. CM asked JE what he saw as challenges for KB. He noted that while KB has some bike lanes there are some residents who think there is a need to widen those lanes for safety purposes, but there are	

	<p>numerous challenges to that (e.g., narrow roads, NCDOT, etc.)</p> <p>SS asked if JE still stands behind his previous comment that he did not support the extension of the greenway behind Settlers Lane. JE replied that he supports a greenway extension through KB, but is sensitive to putting a \$5 million bill on the town/citizens.</p> <p>SS asked that since JE is the town’s liaison to MOTSU, has the issue of a greenway on MOTSU property been discussed with MOTSU, and noted that nine years ago the mayor reported MOTSU was against a greenway on their property. JE reported that MOTSU has currently said there will be nothing along Dow Rd., but he suggested MOTSU may be open to other routes.</p>	
<p>Old Business</p>	<p>2024 Strategic Planning Update Strategic Planning & Accountability</p> <p>Budget: AK reported \$6,862.30, in the committee’s budget.</p> <p>Annual Report: CAF will add information to the draft report and have it ready at the next meeting.</p> <p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ML reported NCDOT has grants for funding helmets for low-income children. WR will submit the grant. • EC reported Terry Benjey Bicycling Foundation also has grants. <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee will develop a script to be used at the markets based on education plan and other pertinent issues. • Website: FAQs updated by CM. ML requested committee email be included there. JE stated that WMPO also looks at six different types of transportation—these 	

should be included in the description of WMPO.

- **Social Media**—EC reported she presented the committee’s idea of a Facebook page for the committee to Council. Council was not comfortable with that idea due to responses needing to be a part a public record. Mandy was going to look at the legal aspect of this.
 - Options: Make the page informational only--eliminating the ability to respond and send readers to email account for comments; utilize recreation departments Facebook page (see attachment).
- ML asked JE if council committees can have social presence.
- Consensus of committee to have a Facebook page that meets the legal state law requirements and does not allow comments.
- ML will contact Beth Chase to add Facebook issue to the March Council agenda.
- Pleasure Island News—no update

Education

- **E-Bikes**—WR will attend March 18th meeting with CB.
- **Education Plan**—WR reported on the draft plan—key components: (a) bike/ped resource center, (b) pedestrian safety, (c) island bicycle safety, and (d) a pedestrian safety campaign (see attachment).
- **Educational materials for markets**—Committee needs to decide on marketing materials (all were in favor of reordering wrist bands) by March.
- **Partnering with Carolian Beach**—SS reported (a) WMPO has approved a \$1.17 million greenway on St Joseph, however part of that area is considered wetlands which will delay process, CB has received funding to complete the process; (b) Ocean Blvd. sidewalk on southside—money has been appropriated and the project has and been sent out for bid; (c) NCDOT is paying for sidewalk of west side of Lake Park Blvd.; (d) WMPO has adopted state rules on e-bikes—

	<p>this will be addressed by CB regarding e-bikes on the beach.</p> <p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study— Study is 30% completed, meeting time for public commit on draft plan will be announced. • Sidewalks—CM sent email showing all sidewalks in KB (see attachment). JE reported town owns sidewalks and can trim the bushes that impinge walkway. JE will work with public works on this. • CAF stated that the sidewalks don't meet universal access criteria. • Bike Racks—AK reported there are six beach access points that do not have bike racks—Terry Benji Bicycle Foundation may have grant money for bike racks. • Spot Lane Connector—CM reported the path has been cleaned. • Updates on Crosswalk Updates: JE reported the crosswalks are now a priority for NCDOT for 2024 • CM requested update on expiration of COVID Relief funds 	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Call to Action—ML will ask Council to send a letter to in response to a Call to Action to repeal HB 198 regarding opportunity for funding for standalone bike/ped projects.</p> <p>Kure-ous Festival—April 27th, 11 AM-3 PM, need members to be at the booth. CAF will submit the necessary form.</p>	
<p>Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kure Beach Baptist Church volunteered to provide hotdogs for the Traffic Garden • Polar Plunge and 5K—Saturday, Feb. 17 • Low-Tide Run—Saturday, March 16 	

	Next meeting: Monday, Mar. 11, 2024, 10 AM	
Adjournment	11:49 AM	