

From: Robert Booher boohfamily@comcast.net 
Subject: Fwd: Bike path resolution - please include on April TC meeting agenda
Date: May 2, 2021 at 6:58 PM
To: Bob Booher boohfamily@comcast.net

BB

John, Marida, Darrell, Charlie, Dave and Gray:

At our March meeting, the HPC discussed the recent Council action endorsing one of the bike path options proposed in the DOT presentation. There were several concerns expressed regarding the appropriateness of the review process both by the county and by the Town:

- There was unanimous dismay expressed that the intended Council discussion of how the Town was to go about making a recommendation was usurped by a motion to make the decision without that expected discussion. (The spirit or sense, if not the actual words, of the Open Meetings Act was not adhered to by this action.)
- It was felt that the 3 options portrayed and purportedly analyzed by either party did not accurately represent the options proposed for study last year. In particular the option of passing through the field did not reflect the proposed path or intent.
- The analysis by the county was cursory and did not include key issues of import to the Town.
- The discussion at the Council meeting was not organized to effectively weigh the options and the impacts on the Town nor represent the sense of the residents.

As you know, the HPC advises on actions that may have impacts on the historic integrity of the Town. In this advisory role, we had anticipated reviewing the impacts of the process and the options on several important HPC related issues:

- Regarding the process: Open deliberations leading to consensus is the historic basis of our Town Meeting form of government and an important attribute to preserve into the future
- Regarding the path: Proper integration of the Town and its resources with its neighbors is critical to its continued vitality
- The bike route(s) should broadly highlight the historic character and rustic nature of the Town
- Any route should reinforce the sense of place and preserve the context of its forested origins
- It should be compatible with the parks, public ways and neighborhoods

The Commission voted unanimously on the attached Resolution, with David and Wendy abstaining for possible conflict of interest.

The Option 2 path was incorrectly presented as representing the “thru the meadow” alternative desired in the first presentation. As depicted, it is not really a true alternative just a variation. Attached is a better representation of this alternative reviewed by the HPC that fully takes advantage of both the natural pathway experience available in the parklands and allows a more representative experience through the Town.

I hope you will consider this at your next meeting.

Bob

