

TOWN OF ANDOVER  
Long Term Planning Committee & Bike Walk Andover Committee  
Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.  
Location: Town Hall Community Room

Special Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order  
Long Term Planning Committee Chair, Eric Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call  
Long Term Planning Committee Attendees:  
Chair Eric Anderson (also Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission), Vice Chair Ed Sarisley, Secretary Amanda Gibson.

Bike Walk Andover Committee Attendees:  
Todd Hunter, Ed Sarisley, Marianella Chalfant, Mike Palazzi (also Conservation Commission Chair and Planning & Zoning Commission member)

Town Attendees:  
Board of Selectwoman Julia Haverl. Resident State Trooper Darrell Tetreault.

Public Attendees:  
Resident & AES bus driver Michelle Vale, Parent Kevin Regan, Residents Adelaida Sarisley & David Sarisley, Parent Joel Landy, Senior Activities Coordinator Cathy Palazzi, Parent Scott Chalfant & daughter Elena Chalfant, Madiley.

State Attendees:  
Senator Cassano's Legislative Aid Wade Packer, State Representative Robin Green.

3. New Business:
  - A. Meeting to discuss road improvements for pedestrian and bicycle safety on Route 316 and Route 6 in Andover with invitee Representative Robin Green.

Eric Anderson and Ed Sarisley presented power point presentation on projector screen for all attendees to view of: Route 316 safety issue and the proposed walking/biking path. Discussed important questions: Can Andover undertake this project? What approaches should the town consider? What are the next steps? Long Term Planning and Bike Walk Andover committees would like to gain public support and determine the next realistic steps with a regional transformational group and/or legislatively.

Parent Marianella Chalfant described difficulty her family has living 1 mile from school with no safe route to walk or ride. Her family loads bicycles onto car in order to take her kids for a bike ride on the East Coast Greenway trail.

Representative Green inquired on how residents and visitors cross over to the library onto Long Hill Road from the East Coast Greenway trail.

Eric Anderson described the approval of the town's Connectivity Grant; better connecting two sides of town (both town centers) currently divided by Route 6 through Route 316 and Long Hill Road with crosswalk enhancement and traffic light infrastructure updates.

Scott Chalfant suggested that the widening of Route 316 may increase speed of traffic, and speed limit is currently 35mph with no shoulders.

Resident State Trooper Darrell Tetreault agreed that could possibly occur, yet widening the road would make it safer regardless. He cannot stop a vehicle near the dangerous curve by Chamberlain Pond; he must wait until they reach a wider shoulder area. Attendee suggested that Board of Selectman to look into purchasing electronic sign posting vehicle mph for that curve.

Michelle Vale stated that AES allows 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> graders to walk and bike to school. The walking/biking path would specifically benefit teenagers who walk around town. She noted the youth specifically walking on Route 316 because she has had to halt the school bus for safety reasons at the dangerous curve mentioned above, as there is not enough room to pass them.

Residents discussed that widening road shoulder is just a 'bandaid' solution. Representative Green shared that widening shoulder would not be safe and would prefer a path.

Senator Cassano's Legislative Aid Wade Packer and Representative Green stated that the Bonding Commission needs to see an application and would need commitment from the town before state gives funding for project.

Representative Green offered to initiate a discussion with Senator Cassano and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to explain the town's needs to get the conversation going before our town submits our plans and application.

Eric Anderson shared the Center Street Project with parking and kiosk signage. And shared that the East Coast Greenway trail and Route 6 both need directional signage (i.e. Welcome to Andover)

Secretary Amanda Gibson shared goals of the Long Term Planning Committee and community as a whole to bring younger people to town. Since the town has a high aging population, we can provide better amenities and market the town to new families. An example is celebrating our agricultural history with the town's refreshed farmers market hosted at one of the town's center areas, Historic Meeting House Field on property of First Congregational Church of Andover.

Amanda Gibson read a letter on behalf of the Kopp family, business owners of Over AndOver and residents on Route 316, describing danger their family experiences running, walking and biking to and from the school, work and lake - and how our community would benefit from a path.

Amanda Gibson also shared her experiences living in other bike friendly and non bike friendly communities and the dangers and

LTPC Chair Eric Anderson described reasoning behind location of walking/biking path and the possible route. The lack of connectivity has been described in the Town of Andover's Plan of Conservation and Development for over 40 years.

Julia Haverl explained how the East Coast Greenway is NOT handicapped accessible.

Ed Sarisley explained how Andover needs help connecting the two sides of our divided town (north and south) through the Connectivity Grant for crossing Route 6 as the first step, and the walking/biking path on Route 316 as the second step. He shared that May 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the transcontinental railroad connecting east and west. Our town has a strong agricultural and railroad history, and we can celebrate with our section of the East Coast Greenway. An audience member announced it would be great to have our next step not take 150 years.

Representative Green informed committees and attendees that a plan needs to be created prior to submit with the application to the Bonding Commission. Also suggested for the Town of Andover to hire Town Engineer Gerry Hardisty to conduct a study, and recommended town to view plans from Mansfield and Coventry.

The Long Term Planning and Bike Walk Andover committee will work on next steps with the Town of Andover. Ed Sarisley and Eric Anderson will host a walk with Town Engineer Gerry Hardisty in order to create engineering concept sketches as was done for the Center Street and Route 6 projects through the Connectivity Grant.

4. Public Participation

5. Adjourn

Long Term Planning Committee Chair Eric Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:15 P.M.

February 2019

From: **Andover Long-Term Planning Commission**  
**Andover Bike/Walk Committee**

Re: **Meeting to discuss road improvements for pedestrian and bicycle safety in Andover**

When: **April 4, 2019, 7:30 p.m.**

Where: **Community Room, 17 School Road, Andover, CT**

Dear Senator Cassano and Representative Green,

The groups named above invite you to attend a meeting to discuss transportation safety and accessibility along a section of Route 316 between Route 6 and School Road in Andover.

The 1978 Andover Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) states that “we need a plan for a transportation system which provides safe pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic.” It also calls for a “town center that will bring together the ‘old’ town hall area with the new town office/school complex.”

Forty years later, that goal remains unchanged—but unmet. The 2018 POCD includes language about “complete streets,” which are recommended for all towns by the DOT. However, the one-mile distance between the ‘old’ town center—which includes the Andover Public Library, the Congregational Church, and the Andover Post Office, as well as the Andover Historical Society Museum, the Town Garage, the Andover Ball Fields, and the Hop River Rail Trail—and the ‘new’ town center, which includes the Town Office Building, the Andover Elementary School, and the Fire Station—remains unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists, due to a lack of shoulders on either side of the road, a curve with poor sight lines, and a bridge that is too narrow to allow both vehicular and pedestrian/cyclist traffic at the same time.

CRCOG has included this stretch of road in a regional network bicycle commuting route, and many town residents are using their bicycles on the roads of Andover to get from one place to another. The Bike/Walk Committee is installing bike racks at both ends of this corridor between the “old” and the “new” town centers, but the fact remains that the corridor is not safe, and most parents correctly forbid their children to use it to get from the school to the ball fields or the library.

The Town of Andover has requested from CT DOT help to remediate this stretch of road. The DOT response was that the project of creating a complete street in this location would need legislative support before anything could be done.

May we enlist your support for a project that is forty years overdue, and would make Andover a town with a connection between town buildings that is not life-threatening to walk or cycle through?

Please join us on April 4 for a short informational meeting in the Andover Community Room. We would appreciate your support.

Respectfully,  
Andover Long-Term Planning Committee  
Bike/Walk Andover Committee