

Dear friends and neighbors,

On behalf of the BBHCA Board and membership we would like to give you an update on the status of the Notice of Intent (NOI) application that we will be submitting to the Falmouth Conservation Commission on November 22nd. There will be a tentative hearing date on Dec. 13th but this has not yet been confirmed.

BBHCA is submitting a request to install a safety gate at mile 6.7 off the bike path as you enter onto the foot path which crosses over private property leading into Little Neck Bars Rd. The gate will be unlocked to allow access for our community neighbors.

Since the bike path opened in 2009 the volume of folks coming through this intersection has grown exponentially-the Summer season is particularly busy as you know. The purpose of the gate is to simply slow people down so that they have to get off their bikes, open the gate and enter/exit the bike path safely. Bikes, trailers, e-bikes, scooters, electric skateboards, walkers, dog walkers, baby carriages and elders using their walkers share this space. We feel the gate is a “speed bump” of sorts to control the situation. We hope you will agree and support this common sense solution.

Over the last four years we have worked towards consensus in our Association about the gate and as you know we have tried to grapple with the pros and cons of this decision in a neighborly fashion. The biggest concern has been that having a gate on the foot path could potentially, generate significant ill-will among our friends and community members who enjoy accessing the path. It has never been the intention of our neighborhood to become an exclusive “gated community.” Throughout the Summer we have tried to talk with folks who enjoy accessing the path to join us in a solution and we appreciate your input and engagement very much.

The design of the gate is simple. There will be an attractive, 4.5' high, wooden gate supported by 6x6" wooden posts. There will be two, 3' sections (wings) of 5' high, black vinyl chain link fence supporting the wooden gate on either side. The gate will open towards the bike path on spring-loaded hinges for self closure. The gate will be unlocked at all times.

If BBHCA gets environmental approval (the purpose of the NOI) for the safety gate it will look like this:



-Cedar 4.5' tall and 48" wide, wooden cottage gate and posts with self closing spring hinges.

-3' long, black vinyl supportive fence panels on each side to support the gate

-there will be a latch to lift and open- there will be no lock

At this time we feel it is very important that everyone in our neighborhood and in the West Falmouth community at large is clear on the purpose of this safety gate. We have put time and expense into this decision with a reasonable outcome. We know that misinformation can linger so if you have neighbors and friends who have expressed concerns about this debate, perhaps you could share this information and reassure them that we are well intentioned to preserve the safety of not only our neighborhood at this intersection in particular, but also for our West Falmouth community. Whether we choose to accept it or not, the liability exposure in and around our roads and private properties is high and there is potential for dangerous and sadly, deadly circumstances to arise. Therefore, we need to collectively respect the reality of our times and create solutions that will keep everyone safe.

Sincerely, Belle McDougall- BBHCA Treasurer Contact Belle anytime: 802-477-3351