

Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee

To: Town Clerk
From: Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee
Date: May 19, 2023
Subject: Proposed Electric Bicycle By-Laws Public Hearing Report

In accordance with MGL Chapter 85, Section 11B ³/₄, a duly noticed public hearing was conducted by the Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee on May 9, 2023 for the purpose of establishing By-Laws for the use of Electric Bicycles and imposing a speed limit on the Town of Milford Bicycle Paths and Trails.

Members Present: Reno DeLuzio (Chair), Henry Papuga, Jeff Howard, Frank Pirrello, Elaine Capuzziello and Joseph Arcudi. Members Absent: Attorney Brian Murray and Frank Malangone. The proposed By-Laws are as follows:

Definitions:

1. Electric Bicycle - A pedal bicycle which has a helper motor.
2. Class 2 Electric Bicycle - An electric bicycle or tricycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

Use:

Electric Bicycles are permitted upon or within a Town of Milford Bicycle Paths. E-Bikes shall not be operated on a trail designated for nonmotorized traffic if such trail has a natural surface tread made by clearing and grading the soil and no surfacing materials have been added.

Electric Bicycles are permitted Class 2 and below and speeds must be kept low, below 15 mph.

Only one Town of Milford resident (Gary Sanborn, 140 Walden Way), a frequent trail user, was in attendance. He gave testimony in support of the proposed By-Law.

Mr. Papuga relayed comments offered by two Milford residents who could not attend the public hearing as follows:

One person asked if Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes) have a maximum speed limit and will it be included in the By-Law. Mr. Papuga will inform the person that the E-Bike motor stops assisting when the E-Bike reaches 20 mph. The currently posted speed limit for bicycles is 15 MPH. It will be included in the By-Law and will also apply to E-Bikes.

The second person reported his wife, a regular trail user, had encountered a near miss with an E-Biker who did not properly announce his/her approach before passing which could have resulted in serious injury.

Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee

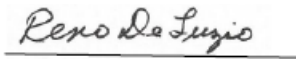
Mr. Howard, a frequent trail user, commented that bicyclists in general of every sort are not always abiding by the speed limit and passing rules as posted on the Trail Rules Signs. It is an issue but not limited to E-Bikes.

Mrs. Capuzziello commented that she had similar experiences with bicyclists exceeding the speed limit and not announcing their passing.

All relevant testimony having been presented; Mr. Pirrello moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Papuga. Motion passed unanimously.

The Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee recommends the Town amend General By-Law Article 34 to allow the use of Electric Bicycles in accordance with the proposed By-Laws.

Respectfully Submitted



Reno DeLuzio, Chairman

Date: 5/19/23

CC: Select Board
Attorney Richard Villani (Town Administrator)
Attorney Brian Murray (Town counsel)

Attachment: Public Notices

Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee

**E-BIKE BY-LAWS
LEGAL NOTICE
MILFORD UPPER
CHARLES TRAIL
COMMITTEE
Town of Milford,
Massachusetts
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING**

In accordance with MGL Chapter 85, Section 11B $\frac{3}{4}$, notice is hereby given that the Milford Upper Charles Trail Committee will conduct a public hearing Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 7:02 PM, Room 3, Town hall for the purpose of establishing By-Laws for the use of Electric Bicycles and imposing a speed limit on the Town of Milford Bicycle Paths and Trails.

The proposed By-Laws are on file in the Office of the Select Board, Milford Town Hall and are available for public inspection.

**PER ORDER MILFORD
UPPER CHARLES TRAIL
COMMITTEE**
Reno DeLuzio, Chairman

AD# 8721672
DN: 4/21/2023

RECEIVED

By Milford Town Clerk's at 11:22 am, Apr 18, 2023

**MILFORD UPPER CHARLES TRAIL COMMITTEE
Town of Milford, Massachusetts
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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Reno DeLuzio

Reno DeLuzio, Chairman

Date: 4/18/23