

Letter

To the Editor:

We loved the article of Red Wright on his work to resurrect the history of the bikeway from Woods Hole to Falmouth over the old railway.

I couldn't help but notice the photo Janet Chalmers took of the boulder marking the entrance on Locust Street. I looked in vain for the story behind the renovation of that entrance to the bike path – I have to respond.

It was in 1988 when Dr. Charles Gadaire, the then-president of the Falmouth Council for Civic Beautification, now known as the Falmouth Beautification Council, came to the council with a new project. He had walked the bike path, and found the entrance to be in sad shape, with a broken-down wooden sign, plus no decent plant materials in sight.

Under his direction, we got started with the boulder donated by Gerry Lynch of the Lawrence-Lynch Co. I remember that day when Charles and I went through their "graveyard" to pick out the stone. I asked Gerry, "Would you help us deliver the stone?" He reacted in surprise, and then said, of course, he would deliver the monster rock. The biggest rubber wheeled front-end loader appeared, picked up the stone and we followed it to Locust Street. That expert operator dropped the stone in place, but the front was faced in the wrong direction. With the tip of the loader blade, he screwed the boulder in to the ground with the front facing perfectly. The process took about 2 minutes.

Next, we accepted about 30 trees and plants from Mahoney's Too to dress up the entrance. The council donated the park bench you see there today. It was that work day of planting when Charles leaned over and whispered, "My greatest fear is that someone will come by and observe, 'Look how disgraceful the town hires such old people to do their work'." That became one of our greatest quotes.

Richard Baker of Baker Monument took care of the engraving of the boulder, with the curved "Shining Sea" leaving a space above "Bikeway". Not long later, I was in the office of Ed Keough of Waterford Printing Co. behind Main Street (the old Kendall Printing Co.), discussing this problem of that awkward space. On the wall behind Ed was a poster of various sized scallop shells, and I picked one for the stone. Ed produced a copy for Dick Baker's engraver.

That bikeway entrance job is prominently displayed on the council's poster-board with before and after photos. It is by far a part of the history of this bike path.

With kind regards,

Arthur D. Calfee, Director