



**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem  
Meeting Summary  
April 24, 2012**

Present: Scott Lewendon, Alan Via, Anne Benware, Ann Mullaly, Henry Peyrebrune, Caleb Wistar  
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Jason Gallo, Rob Leslie, Mike Whiteley  
School District Staff: None

**Comments on March Meeting Summary**

No Comments.

**Review Bike Expo Event & Committee Lead Skill Stations**

Jason confirmed who would be able to attend the Bike Expo Event (Scott, Rob, Ann, Anne and maybe Skip) and handed out information sheets with the 4 traffic skill stations that the committee volunteers will be leading (Start Stops, Rock Dodge, Scanning & Demon Driveway). The committee then reviewed the parking lot set-up and how it would be implemented. It was decided that the younger riders (7 & younger) who participate in the "Rodeo" would now use the older kids rodeo course and the older kids/participants (8 & up) would use the middle lot for the traffic skills course. It was also determined that the facilitation of teaching the skills would be done by having the committee volunteers walk the participants all the way through the course, thus teaching the same participant all 4 traffic skills. Previously we had committee members stationary, with one person teaching a specific skill and when the participant moved on to the next skill station a different person would be instructing them. Given the limited number of volunteers it was determined that having committee members walk participants all the way through each station would help us facilitate better.

Detective Whitley will assist with the traffic skills course as he can but he will also be coordinating the bike sales and serving as the sweep for the bike rides through the park. The Bike rides through the park is a new component to the event, where the participants that go through the traffic skills course will take a ride through the park and practice the skills they just learned. The ride will be lead by Jason.

Another addition to this year's Bike Expo is a free helmet giveaway, for anyone who comes to the event that either does not have a helmet or one which fits properly. This will be incorporated at the Helmet fit station. The Helmets are being provided by The Brain Injury Association of New York State. If they are able to they will send staff to man the helmet fit station and pass out information.

**Discuss Committee's Stance on Sidewalk Bicycling**

There was consensus that the PaTHs Committee should educate about the dangers of riding your bicycle on the sidewalk and as a general guide encourage anyone over the age of 10 to ride on the streets. This perspective by the PaTHs Committee will be added the "What to Teach Your Children about Riding a Bicycle" hand out that we will disseminate at the upcoming Bike Expo Event. Language added to the handout: *"As a general rule of thumb, it's not a good idea to encourage bicycling on sidewalks. Riding a bicycle on a sidewalk places the bicyclist in a position where they are not anticipated by motorists. Studies have shown that the risk of collisions with motorists is greater at intersections and busy driveways when riding a bicycle on a sidewalk instead of on the roadway."*

*However, most children are not capable of bicycling in traffic on many of the Town's major roadways until they are about aged nine or ten. The complexities of traffic are simply too much for their developing bodies and minds. For this reason, sidewalk bicycling for children up to the age of 10 years is acceptable. When riding on a sidewalk, young children should be constantly aware of turning vehicles, especially at busy driveways and at intersecting streets. They should not dart out into the roadway and stop at all intersections. It may be best to teach your children to dismount and walk across streets. Finally, teach your children to make all their decisions, independently, while riding a bicycle. Just because the street is clear for the bicyclist in front doesn't mean that it will be clear when your child is about to cross."*

#### **New Business**

- Walk Friendly Community application was reviewed and the Town of Bethlehem did not receive a recognition at any of their levels of status. Their proposed recommendations will be shared via email.
- It is important that we encourage those who are in favor of the New Delmar Bicycle Route, to share their support with the Town Supervisor. Not all residents have this same enthusiasm about the new route and it is important to balance the comments that come into the Supervisor's office. Please ask others who you know that support this route to email, write and/or share their positive perspective with the Town Supervisor's Office.
- The May Meeting date is rescheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, May 29 at Town Hall, room 101 at 6:30pm.
- New Committee Applications have been submitted and the review process is underway. It is anticipated that the 3 new members will be identified by our May meeting.
- The consultant work with VHB as part of the NYSERDA grant has concluded and there is now a new website, [sustainablebethlehem.org](http://sustainablebethlehem.org), which includes the documents produced by VHB
- Detective Whiteley informed the committee that as part of his responsibilities as a School Resource Officer for the Bethlehem Central Middle School, his focus is on the overall well being and safety of all students, which includes the education of bicycle and pedestrian issues. For future reference, he would be able to help and assist/lead with future presentations for students regarding these topics.

#### **Public Comment**

None.

#### **Adjourn**

7:25pm