



### **In Attendance**

Robert Leslie, Joe Pasquini, Scott Lewendon, Ann Mullaly, Fred Powers, Henry Peyrebrune, Maureen Cunningham, Anne Benaware, Oliver Holmes, Jill Adams

**New Member Appointments:** RL said two new members have been selected from nine letter of interest and will be announced at the Town Board Meeting on February 27, 2013: Jennifer Spore of Elsmere and Corey Engel of Selkirk. Also four sitting members will be reappointed to 2-year terms: Oliver Holmes, Jill Adams, Joe Pasquini, and Ann Mullaly.

**Safe Routes to School:** RL said NYS DOT kick-off meeting would be held on March 28, 2013, to help communities like ours who were awarded funding to understand how to proceed.

**Opportunity for Bike Skills Course:** RL said a cub scout group is interested; potential date April 28, 2013. The committee discussed presenting an event similar to the bicycle rodeo at the Town Park. Call for volunteers from the committee to help run this event. AM noted that the same weekend is Healthy Kids Day at the Bethlehem YMCA, April 27, 2013.

**Committee Work Plan – Education:** Roll Model Program was the main item of business and discussion. RL laid out some tasks, such as making a powerpoint presentation about the program. RL said John Clarkson is supportive and thinks the Town Board would be too. There's the potential to give a kick-off presentation at a Town Board Meeting.

HP said some funds, ~\$5,000, are available from the former Bethlehem Citizens for Pedestrian Safety group and is currently held by Fran Stevens. Committee discussed having the Town Board acknowledge the citizens group, give them some recognition, perhaps at the kick-off meeting

The central feature of Roll Model Program is The Pledge. SL presented a table of potential outreach events and potential partners. Titled "Campaign Components," to serve as a framework for the Roll Model program.

As the committee worked through the suggested components, related discussions came up. RL reported that he'd gone to an Elsmere School PTA meeting discussing the school crosswalk on Delaware Avenue and specific problems and concerns with the noncompliance of drivers. FP reported a conversation with BCMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade health teacher Fran Vincent about having bike/walk issues be presented as potential projects for student assignments in spring. Students are expected to find data and come up with a public service/advocacy-type project or event to improve health behavior. OH raised the tricky point of how to reach adults and drivers with our educational efforts. FP seconded that idea: How do we target the cars that are not stopping at school crossing? The committee brainstormed a little on this, suggesting various ways of enhancing the visibility of the crosswalk, increasing enforcement, and holding a mass walking event.

Another component is bike safety courses. The committee discussed existing bike groups in the area, such as the Bethlehem Tri Club and Albany Bike Coalition group, and other groups' safety course, such as the Parks and Recreation's "Savvy Cycling Course," and beginner rides lead by Mohawk Hudson Bike Club members. Tabling events may be a key way to get the word out and the pledges in, at events such as the Delmar Farmers Market and Bethlehem Soccer Club's Picture Day. AB said we should develop a display poster board, perhaps have a tent and materials to handout.

HP asked what our main focus is — holding events or getting people to sign the pledge? Committee agreed that we need to be clear about how the events and the pledge tie together. What comes first, what's our priority, where should we focus our efforts? The committee discussed this point at length and a general consensus that the overall goal is to get as many town residents as we can to take the Roll Model pledge. How we get those signatures can be in any number of ways: tabling events, through Bethlehem businesses and organizations, and at educational and outreach events.

Having this goal — X number of Bethlehem residents have pledged to be Roll Models for safe walking, biking, and driving — will position us better to claim that we are a walk-and-bike-friendly community and will allow us to compete for future grant money. We can hope that it leads to greater interest in Town to launch and participate in walking and biking events of all kinds.

First to-do item: to develop a brochure that contains the pledge, some background info, has logos and associated organizations.

JA volunteered to draft the brochure and MC and SL offered to help. Pledge elements will be based on the existing safety tips card, roll model program text, committee and town goals. The committee discussed aspects of the brochure — making it a trifold, having a signature line, having a tear-off section so we can collect signatures.

AB volunteered to work on creating a placard for tabling events. SL volunteered to start developing a list contacts. RL suggested two possible dates for kicking off the Roll Model program: April 10 or April 24.

**Public Comment:** Bethlehem resident Tom Butler raised the issue of creating a pathway for neighborhoods on the north side of Feura Bush Rd under the National Grid power lines to Glenmont School. He showed maps of the area and presented a feasibility study from East Greenbush drafted by the Albany Hudson Electric Trails that projects like this can be done. He added that it might relieve traffic on Feura Bush from parents who drive their kids to school.

Lots of discussion on this trail and others like it in town, about the difficulties of getting easements, permissions, etc. Discussion of using power line & water line cuts as paths as a footpath network, with some research done by town resident Jim Booker. Also, discussion on the history and difficulties of getting sidewalks installed on Rt. 9W.

Rob Leslie mentioned that Feura Bush Rd, from Elsmere Ave to Rt. 9W, is a priority for a new sidewalk. A redundancy to work on two paths covering the same neighborhoods. Also that sidewalk projects, as funding comes available, are easier administratively than dealing with private companies and residents who might object to a foot path adjacent to their property.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:30 pm.

**Next meeting March 26, 2013, at 6:30 pm.**