



In Attendance

Committee Members: Kenneth Kovalchik, Kristin Ackerman, Henry Peyrebrune, Ann Mullaly, Scott Lewendon, Anne Benware, Steve LeBoyer, Fred Schrock.

Police Department – Commander Adam Hornick and Detective Michael Whiteley

Bethlehem Central School District – 5 students attended as part of their Government Participation class.

Public – Sheri Sandusky, David Dembling, one other resident

The following is a summary from our February 28, 2017 Committee meeting:

Police Department Traffic Safety Updates

- Three bicycle/vehicle crashes occurred in one day.
- With the weather improving the speed radar trailer will be deployed soon.
- Car seat check day will occur on May 4th, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Elm Avenue Park.
- Police Department has received numerous complaints about the new building being constructed at 308 Delaware Avenue. The complaints are related to sight distance issues with the building being located too close to Delaware Avenue. Ken informed the Committee that once the construction is completed there will be a landscape strip in front of the building, along with a 5' wide sidewalk and landscape strip between the sidewalk and Delaware Avenue, which will allow for approximately 20' of landscaped area in front of the building. This will allow for increased sight distance once the site improvements have been completed.

Project Updates

Delaware Avenue Hamlet Streetscape Enhancement Project

- The project has gone out to bid, with a deadline of March 15th for all bids to be received.
- Construction is expected to begin late April to early May and continue through the Fall.
- Completion of the project will be weather dependent and may continue into 2018.

Complete Streets Feasibility Study

- The first public meeting was held on February 16th and approximately 100 residents/business owners attended the meeting
- The consultant conducted a presentation to provide a background on what is a Complete Street, summary of the existing conditions report, goals of project and next steps.
- There was a question and answer period and the public was invited to participate in a “sticky dot” exercise where they could select bicycle and pedestrian/street landscape/traffic related items most important to them that should be addressed as part of the study.
- There were 4 stations set up with maps of the study area. The public was encouraged to place sticky notes on areas within the corridor with suggestions regarding needed improvements.

Slingerlands Trailhead Project – Albany County Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail

- Sheri Sandusky, resident of Slingerlands, attended the meeting to discuss the importance of improving the trailhead in Slingerlands. Sheri stated there are issues with access and commercial vehicles parking at the trailhead, and that design guidelines for pedestrian access and safety need to be addressed. Sheri encouraged Committee members and the Town to be involved in the project.

- Ken informed the Committee that Albany County hired a consulting firm (Creighton Manning) to complete a trailhead design study, but completion of the study was delayed due to a private property issue with an adjacent landowner in Slingerlands.
- Ken informed the Committee that as part of the trailhead study there would be public meetings held, which Committee members could attend to support the project and offer comments on the proposed design.
- Scott informed the Committee that Albany County had purchased 12 trail etiquette signs and the signs were expected to be installed this Spring.

Bike Expo

- Commander Hornick updated the Committee that the Bethlehem Police Department received grant funding from the Governors Traffic Safety Bureau, which can be used to fund the Bike Expo. The funding has to be used for educational related purposes.
- Detective Whiteley informed the Committee about a bike safety/vehicle traffic law survey which was distributed to BCSD Elementary and Middle School students (3rd grade to 9th grade). To date 884 students had responded.
- The Committee discussed having the Bike Expo event on the rail trail this year. The date for the event will be May 20th.
- Preliminary discussions suggested the event could take place between the Booth Road entrance and Gardner Terrace entrance. There would be tents/booths set up at either end of the event and along the rail trail. It was suggested to utilize the Adams Street municipal lot and grass area adjacent to the trail for an event area.
- The Committee agreed to continue discussing logistics at the March and April Committee meeting.

Other Business

- Ken informed the Committee that he wrote a letter of support on behalf of the Committee for NYSDEC Urban Forestry Grant the Town was applying for. A copy of the letter was provided to Committee members.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall Room 101A.