



**Bethlehem Bicycle and Pedestrian
Committee
DRAFT February 26, 2019 Meeting
Summary**

Present

Committee: Kristin Ackerman, Anne Benware, Laura DiBetta, Oliver Holmes, Steve LeBoyer, Anne Perry, Erin Rightmyer, Mindy Scott, Erin Svare.

Town Staff: Nate Owens, Detective Mike Whitely

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 29, 2019 meeting were approved.

2. Traffic Safety Updates

• Police Department:

- Detective Whitely shared an email update from Adam. The department continues to get speed complaints. In one instance on Herber a traffic counter was installed and showed that 85% of drivers were travelling at 33mph or less. They are looking at traffic calming and other measures to address.
- The department applied for a grant for the Walk and Roll fest, but has not heard yet whether or not it will be awarded.

• Planning Department:

- Nate reported on the January 30 Delmar community forum on the Comprehensive Plan update. There was good attendance and discussion. Many comments have been about walkability, bikeability, and connections/improvements.
- The North Bethlehem community forum was rescheduled to March 12 at Russell Road firehouse.
- There have been internal discussions during the staff traffic and pedestrian committee meetings about pulling together an inventory of traffic calming tools. They are also looking at patterns on town streets.

3. Discussion of Committee Work Plan

It was noted that there may be policy decisions that come out of the Comprehensive Plan update that might inform the committee's work plan. The committee then walked through the previous work plan to begin to develop a plan for the coming year:

1. ADA Transition Plan: This is a town responsibility. Nate will be working on this.

2. Complete streets toolbox: The committee discussed the possibly focusing on the traffic calming aspect. Nate will check with Rob Leslie on where staff effort is going. At a minimum, the staff could share what it develops for committee feedback. This is a lower priority item.
3. Safe Routes to School: When opportunities come up, the Town goes after them. This could be incorporated as part of looking at the Priority Network. We will keep it on the work plan so that it prompts us to talk with the schools each year to discuss needs.
4. Education:
 - a. The committee discussed developing a committee fact sheet, including our mission, some benefits/the “why”.
 - b. There was discussion of doing something related to crosswalks.
 - c. Committee agreed to use Facebook more, and to set up an Instagram account (need volunteer).
 - d. There was a suggestion to be more visible, i.e., at events.
5. Revise Town Ordinance for Bicycles: It might be a better time after comprehensive plan update.
6. Presenting to Town Board: Nate to find out more about appropriate timing.
7. NYS DOT: The committee needs to know who the appropriate contact is at DOT. Nate will try to find out.
8. Town Highway Superintendent: We had a good meeting with Tiger, who asked for our input. The committee will continue to coordinate with him. Sidewalk maintenance seems to be focus as opposed to new sidewalks for now.
9. There was agreement to combine public awareness and education on the workplan.
10. Priority network: The committee could work to update this and the update could inform the comprehensive plan update. This should be the focus of the April committee meeting.

There was a broader discussion and how the committee can be more impactful (i.e., what are some best practices, what are good talking points on some of these issues). Anne B. suggested as a task putting together resources on what has been successful in other communities and volunteered to do that. Anne P. noted the book *Joyride* provides a great example of a community that had a vision and delves into how they transformed the city of Portland, OR to be much more bikeable and walkable. It was noted that connectivity is important – safe routes from place to place. There is an annual Trails Advocacy Day coming up. Committee members could attend and also gain some good talking points and tips on effective approaches.

Nate noted CDTC released the Capital District Bike Plan. They identified a network, looked at branding, and why a more regional plan and brand is economically beneficial. Nate will send it to the committee.

For the work plan, the committee should decide on some short-term and longer-term priorities and action items. At every meeting, we will select one work plan item and flesh out steps to make progress. We will establish project leads after we finalize our work plan.

4. Walk and Roll 2019 Fest

Detective Whitely provided on update on planning. The location is secured (250 Delaware). Everyone was encouraged to try to find the signs from last year as they can be changed with this year’s date. We still have drawstring bags from last year. Det. Whitely will reach out to Stewarts for ice cream coupons.

He will check if they still have new bikes, if not, he will ask the Town Parks Dept. to obtain. He also has the map/plan from last year and will use that as a basis for moving forward.

The committee discussed vendors. This list includes last year's list as well as new ideas:

- Library
- CDPHP
- Tri-club
- Pine Hollow Arboretum
- Radio Station
- Rock climbing wall – firehouse had one at their open house
- Include Hwy Dept – snow bank safety
- Emack & Bolio's truck (confirmed)
- Bike shops
- Friends of Five Rivers
- Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy
- Solarize Albany
- Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation
- Parks Department
- Parks & Trails New York
- CDTC
- Friends of the Rail Trail
- NYBC

We will work on splitting up the vendor list in terms of outreach.

Some additions discussed for this year include:

- Adult skills station
- Interactive display on sharing the road – maybe Albany Bike Coalition would do this?
- Learn how to fix a flat and other skills would also help attract adults. Steve could coordinate with Steiner Sports.
- BMX demo? There are some local kids involved. Det. Whitely will reach out.

The committee is in charge of skills stations. Anne B. will ask Scott Lewendon if he would be willing to volunteer.

The committee discussed event promotions. It will go on the Town website and in the Park Playbook. Hamagrael will again help to promote. Det. Whitely would like to branch out to other schools. He will try to do a second school. It was suggested that he switch to different schools for this year. The video from last year can be used again. He will put in *Our Town* again also. Laura will update the press release.

5. Draft Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Agenda items:

- focused discussion on education campaign gearing up for spring
- establish project leads
- Walk and Roll Fest planning

Chair: Laura DiBetta

Recorder: Oliver Holmes

April meeting agenda items:

- Priority network discussion
- Walk and Roll Fest planning

Nate will get meetings on the Town calendar.

Nate noted that reappointments will be made at the March 13th town board meeting.

6. Public Comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Next Meeting, March 26, 2019 in Room 101A at Town Hall.