



6/25/19 Meeting Minutes

Town of Bethlehem Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

In attendance: Nate Owens, Anne Benware, Ann Mullaly, Mindy Scott, Erin Svare, Henry Peyrebrune, Erin Rightmyer, Mark Wahl

Ann Mullaly chaired and Mindy Scott recorded the meeting and prepared the minutes.

There was no May meeting so no minutes were approved by the Committee.

Anne started the meeting with discussion about the Walk and Roll Fest. Feedback included the following:

- Need more forms.
- Need more volunteers to staff the stations to allow Committee members to float and interact with the community participants. High school seniors in need of community service hours could be accessed. This would allow better use of the Committee members' time and allow them to be exposed to all of the Fest.
- Consider T-shirts for Committee members and volunteers, with different design for each to distinguish roles.
- Have a Committee table where participants can go to gather information and offer feedback about bike and pedestrian issues.
- Consider doing more promotion next year, including still photography and videography (there was discussion of release forms and legal issues of consent).
- Consider using the whole parking lot – need the Legion's permission.
- Ask Detective Whitely for his feedback about the Fest, including the purpose of the Town's bike registration requirement – should this be eliminated or made voluntary.
- Overall the space and layout were very good, but there was a bottleneck at the helmet station.
- Consider going on a community ride, in conjunction with the Fest, down the rail trail, possibly to Stewart's and back.
- Ensure we have a tube changing station next year, to engage adults.
- Consider a press release next year to send to TV and radio stations and to local newspapers.
- Ask the Four Corners Luncheonette and Emack and Bolio's to return year. Consider offering space to not for profit community groups, like Girl and Boy Scouts or HS cross country team, to set up bake sales, including coffee and lemonade, etc.

Nate provided the Planning Department update:

Town is developing a connection along Cherry Ave extension between the Rail Trail and McCormack. Expected completion is sometime next year, possibly by summer 2020.

The Town has accepted Paul Winkler's resignation from the Committee and will not be filling that vacancy.

There was some discussion among the Committee about the need for additional connectors and crossings, for example, between the Elm Ave Park and Line Drive baseball/softball fields, along Elm Ave and Murray Ave, and from the four corners to the cemetery along Kenwood. ***Nate will get an update on Town plans for additional connectors and crossings for the Committee.***

The Town Supervisor would like to know what the Committee sees as priorities for additional projects. We have the Priority Network evaluation criteria established for ranking requests that come to the Committee, however, the Committee can also offer its recommendations for priorities in addition to requests from the community. An action item would be to update the priority network, identifying gaps and working with Nate to evaluate the cost/benefit of resolving each gap and prioritizing projects for the Town. Nate, Skip and Anne B. had volunteered to be lead on Priority Network and Evaluation Criteria Update. We can workshop this update as a group under their leadership, identifying outlying areas of town that have been underserved, for example.

The Committee agreed it would be helpful to have the Highway Superintendent attend more meetings to provide updates and dialogue about issues, including how the Committee can be helpful to him.

Nate provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan:

The Town is collecting comments for purposes of issuing an RFP. More focused topical meetings will be scheduled, including transportation related issues. Active transportation is likely to appear in the Plan. The Committee is encouraged to participate in some way in these focused meetings. The Comprehensive Plan will set the course of Town activities for the next twenty years. This is an opportunity for the Committee to weigh in and hear the varying perspectives within the community. ***The Committee members should email Nate with their ideas of what should be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.***

In Other Business:

- Erin Svare summarized the findings of the community survey regarding bike, pedestrian and traffic calming perspectives. She received 449 responses from a diverse cross section of town, with overall consensus of alternate transportation and traffic calming measures.
- The Education and Public Awareness subcommittee (Erin S. Erin R. Kristin, Mindy and Nate) agreed to meet over the summer to develop a communications plan. ***Nate will email the subcommittee to find a date to meet.***
- The Committee agreed to not respond to negative editorials.
- The Committee may be contacted to assist with information for a community bike farm tour.

The June Committee meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.