

October 22, 2019 Minutes Bethlehem Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Attendees: Erin Svare Chair, Henry Peyrebrune, Recorder, Skip Holmes, Nate Owens, Kristin Ackerman, Erin Rightmeyer, Anne Benaware, Adam Hornick.

Guests: Lorenz Worddn, Albany Bicycle Coalition, Mark Maniak, ABC, John Gillivan, Colonie, Connie Kontogiannis, Bethlehem.

1. Minutes were approved.
2. Guests. The 2 members from ABC and the member from Colonie were there to observe our committee as they prepare to establish a similar committee in Colonie. The Albany Bicycle Coalition is developing an interactive map which will include Albany routes as well as ties to Bethlehem, Colonie, Troy and Schenectady.

Mr. Kontogiannis has been an advocate for bicycle safety for years. His primary concern is the lack of maintenance on shoulders on State DOT highways and was advocating closer coordination between the Town and State DOT on shoulder maintenance, shoulder sweeping and shoulder pothole repair. He also stated that the Town has the wrong kind of sweeper for the shoulders, that just spreads the stones around and advocated for the Town to have an agreement with the Town of New Scotland which has the right kind of sweeper. The discussion following highlighted that the Town does coordinate with State DOT but appreciates the resident presentation of concerns that can be added to the list of issues to be discussed with the state.

3. Department Updates

Police: Adam reported on the next GTSC grant which will focus on the activities associated with the Delaware Ave Road diet project, River Road safety, Van Dyck RD signing with the Spinney Development and Krumkill Rd speeding. The police had a Traffic Safety Booth at Crossgates which was recognized as the best presentation at the Safety Show. They are working

with the State Police on a joint analysis of traffic crash information. They also participated with the Bethlehem School District on Operation Safe Stop which received media attention.

Planning: Nate discussed the Street Tree Inventory which is underway and will result in a proposed Street Tree management Plan. He anticipates opportunities for public input once the inventory is completed and the data is analyzed. Nate handed out Part 2 of the Development Process and Town Code Overview and highlighted where bike and pedestrian issues are found in the Subdivision regulations. Discussion focused on how the Committee can be advised of pending subdivision applications and how they can input into the process on bike and pedestrian concerns. Nate will provide a list of pending subdivision applications that have Bicycle and/or pedestrian issues.

4. Subcommittee Updates

Priority Network: Skip and Nate presented a draft updated map of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network. The map was updated by Skip and Nate to include new developments, new cycling patterns and the rail trail and connections. Following discussion, the Committee is to review the map and present modifications for the next meeting. The Committee also discussed the need to develop a Bike/Ped Master Plan. Skip will draft a Letter to the Board recommending developing such a Plan. The Committee would also like a copy of the projects which have been through the evaluation process and are being considered by the Town for implementation.

Outreach and Education; Erin discussed the recent postings on Facebook and Instagram and asked for members to provide additional content to her.

2019 Work plan: There was a recommendation to have the Highway Supervisor attend the December meeting to give an update on activities of the past year and plans for the coming year. Erin and Nate will contact the ~~Supervisor~~Superintendent.

5. New Issues; Skip advised that based on his research, there is no state law prohibiting bicycling on sidewalks. It is a Town option to pass such a prohibition and the Town of Bethlehem has not passed such a resolution . So it is not illegal to bike on sidewalks in the Town of Bethlehem.

The State Legislature will consider the 3 foot safe passing legislation next year and there appears to be a good chance for passage given a change in leadership of the Assembly Transportation Committee.

6. Follow Up Items for the next meeting
 - Nate: List of pending Subdivision applications that have bicycle and/or pedestrian issues.
 - Committee: Review and comment on Priority Network
 - Nate: List of projects in Queue for implementation(note received from Adam and forwarded to Committee by Erin)
 - Nate and Erin Svare: Invite Highway Supervisor to next meeting(Note. Erin send an email to Tiger and left a call)
 - Skip: Draft letter to Board on developing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
 - Committee: Content ideas on bike and ped safety to Erin Svare for posting on social media.
7. Next meeting: December 10. 2019
 - Chair: Henry Peyrebrune
 - Recorder: Erin Rightmeyer