

## Bethlehem Bike/Ped Committee Meeting Minutes for 2/25/2020

In attendance: Henry, Nate, Erin R., Mindy, Laura, Anne B., Kristin, Steven, Oliver, Highway Superintendent Marc Dorsey. Police Representatives: Commander Hornick, Det. Sgt. Cocchiara. Several members of the Public

Kristin chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

### Public Comment:

- Town resident David Casso proposed a "Slow Roll" event series to provide 1 hour summer group bike rides for kids/families promoting non-device time and wellness. The Committee had questions and comments:
  - Who would run it? Who is the target group? Committee involvement?
  - David C. is volunteering to promote, he'll ask others to help, including businesses and Bike rescue, etc.
  - Target group includes kids/families
  - Advertise the group ride(s) at Walk and Roll Fest & Farmers Market. Also use other ongoing activities like Bike to School Day.
  - Kids could learn bike skills at the Walk n Roll Fest then progress to riding in the group around Town. Have a table at the Walk n Roll Fest for sign ups/more info.
  - If volunteers organize and run the group ride additional Town insurance wouldn't be needed; Committee can promote, other volunteers organize and run rides.

**Minutes from the January 28 2020 meeting were approved.**

### Highway Superintendent Update:

Committee welcomed Highway Superintendent Marc Dorsey.

- 40 emails of sidewalk requests received; would like Committee help in developing a matrix of sidewalk needs/projects using criteria for a data driven approach to determine where to install sidewalks.
- Group discussed equipment and capability for installing sidewalks using town staff. Town Highway has concrete sidewalk forms, unfinished sidewalk projects from last year will be completed this year, so some equipment but will sub-out most work.
- Additional sidewalk work will be contracted out to town-bid winner Callanan. Highway Dept. staff excavates and lays stone, contractor does the rest. Some will be done each year based on budgetary constraints which are huge.
- Henry noted the 2014 sidewalk condition assessment and need for an updated assessment, maintenance needs analysis & budget to present to the Town Board.
- Town has started to identify projects that were done since 2014 and to do an updated conditions assessment which should be done in a few weeks.
- There will likely be a higher percentage of lower condition sidewalks as efforts over the past few years focused on adding new sidewalks, not improving poor existing sidewalks.
- There's no budget item to add new sidewalks in the Town budget, NYS roadway paving funds have been less and the Highway Department is also short staffed.
- Oliver noted budget issues result in deferred maintenance, means we'll never catch up.
- Present conditions assessment and capital fund needs to Town Board; create a 5 or 10 year plan. It's a balance between maintaining existing sidewalks and building new.
- **Priority Network** - Nate explained the Strava walking map and draft Gap Analysis table.

- Not enough resources for sidewalks on all roads but need them on heavily trafficked roads and to connect destinations/connect Point A to Point B using low volume roadways: provide safe walking routes/network and also think about the future Bike/Ped Priority Network Map.
- Nate explained the Priority Network criteria and how it's used to evaluate sidewalk requests. The criteria include traffic volume, connections to destinations (schools, transit, etc.). Looking at how different Hamlet areas may develop and how to connect those.
- How well would a proposed sidewalk perform? Gap analysis and priority network: how will new sidewalks extend network, make connections to destinations not served well now?
- Kristin asked how the Town Traffic Safety Committee uses the Priority Network Criteria. Nate described how the priority Network Matrix developed in 2010 by the committee with town staff is still used to score proposals. They now have a sidewalk queue. If funding is not available for high scoring sidewalks but stays in queue the Town still wants to look at the queue and get a better sense of what priorities should be which is why we've got to look at the overall network. Adam H. noted that the easement issue is huge and is often a barrier to getting a project done.
- Kristin said the Committee can assist Marc on things like grant applications, etc. and noted the Committee is hoping he will be able to attend our meetings.

#### **Police Update:**

- Crash numbers are stagnant. Alcohol/drug crashes still among the region's highest.
- Bicycle and pedestrian crashes are down slightly, so moving in the right direction.
- State Police asked Town Police Department to present best practices for traffic safety management, the Town (Inter-Departmental) Traffic Safety Committee, etc.
- 2021 state traffic safety grant (Governors Traffic Safety Committee – GTC) applications available early March, due May 1<sup>st</sup>; are based on crash statistics. As crashes have gone down the Town will be eligible for fewer funds; typically for high speed roads only.
- NYS uses Bethlehem & Corning Police Departments as models for grant submissions.
- The CDTC Technical Assistance grant is a small scale grant (<\$10,000) for analytical tool development; only one location is selected for safety upgrades. See CDTC's website under Technical Assistance.
- Grant awards for CDTC funding for the Walk and Roll Fest giveaways by end of April.

#### **Planning Department Update:**

- Town staff met with NYS Dept. of Transportation regarding concerns for crosswalks and potential Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs). Nate had looked at several crosswalks on State roads in Town and the NYS Pedestrian Safety Action Plan to check applicability for different treatments (RRFBs, signage, striping). NYSDOT offered to look at the crosswalks for the Town.
- The Tree Inventory and Management Plan work continues. A draft plan should be completed in the next few weeks followed by a public meeting in the Spring to solicit feedback on the draft plan. A healthy street tree environment contributes to walkability.
- Nate noted that he is involved with three CDTC Committees including Bike/Ped, ADA and Complete Streets. The region's draft long range transportation plan, New Visions is coming out and the committee might want to review and provide comments.

- The Friends of Parks & Recreation group approached the Town about ADA accessibility for town park locations, hoping there will be action on ADA access in parks, inclusion of the issue in the Comp Plan and broader ADA access in Town.
- The presentation to the Town Board regarding the Committee will be 2/26/20. Kristin, Erin S. and Nate will present. Other members said they could attend. The Town Board will vote on reappointments and the appointment of a new member. Town staff has submitted Connie Kontogiannis' name for appointment to the Committee by the Board.

**Walk and Roll – May 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, 10 am to 1 pm:**

- Det. Srgnt. Gina Cocchiara reported that the location has been confirmed (Community Care portion of the lot used in prior two years) and the insurance binder is set.
- The flyer and website have been updated. New lawn signs would cost \$700 while update stickers will cost \$200, so stickers are being ordered. Committee members need to get stickers to update the signs they already have. Gina will email the committee the updated flyer.
- The Police Dept. only has 14 bikes to sell this year.
- Gina will talk to the two Police Unions to request donation money to pay for prizes (ice cream) for bike skills course completion.
- Martin Harding and Mazzotti will be asked for more bike helmets to give away.
- Steve asked if the Albany Bike Rescue could help fix bikes and add to the 14 bikes as he's been getting donated bikes. The Committee said yes.
- Steve also asked if the Committee wanted some E Bike demos. Nate noted that if we have E Bike demos we'll have to figure out how that fits with other activities space wise at the Fest (such as pedestrian activity, bike skills, etc)
- Laura suggested there be set advertised times for the E Bike demos.
- Steve will ask other Town bike shops re: their participation. It's possible that Steiner's, could have high visibility items to sell. It was suggested that For Sale items at the Fest be limited to safety related items.
- Nate suggested the B/P Committee table at the Fest include more items than last time, maybe some posters (in addition to the Helmet Fit poster previously discussed).
- Kristin noted that last year as vendors were secured their names and business links were added to the Fest website to help market the event. This information was also put on the Committee's social media.
- It was noted that the exhibitor/vendor list needs to be updated on the website as it shows last year's now.
- Kristin will ask Emack and Bolio for ice cream cone donations again; the plan is to supplement this amount again through the police unions donations.
- Gina noted that the Police Dept. will again request 2 bikes from Walmart for the raffle.
- Reflective vests for adults were a recommended use for grant fund for giveaways.
- The raffle prizes of Pizza with the Elementary School Principals will happen.

**Subcommittee Updates:**

- Priority Network Updates – already discussed above.

**Next Meeting – 3/24/2020. Chair: Anne Benware Recorder: Mark Wahl**