



**Town of Bethlehem
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

MINUTES

May 26, 2020

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE

Present

Town representatives: Nate Owens, Commander Adam Hornick, Det. Sgt. Gina Cocchiara,

Committee members: Kristin Ackerman, Steven LeBoyer, Henry Peyrebrune, Anne Benware, Erin Svare, Mark Wahl, Mindy Scott, Oliver Holmes, Erin Rightmeyer, Constantine Kontogiannis , Laura DiBetta

Public comment

Committee reviewed the email in regard to the ability to travel by bicycle from Darroch Avenue to Elm Avenue Park. Nate reviewed the background and Anne recalled how this had been discussed several years ago. Jason Ballo of Parks has been aware of the interest in to connection of park lands and it was on a list but was deferred by Highway Department and work of field drainage was substituted. Connie shared a proposed budget for implementing a connection from the Park and Ride lot through the park. Given the cost to implement and the uncertainty with town funds it is not clear if there can be a near term solution. Highway is focused on trying to perform sidewalk maintenance with limited staff and funds during the current budget year. In regard to the possibility of a bike path from the Bypass Extension to the Town Park, the committee discussed the availability of Town parkland set aside funds and the need to investigate this funding option further.

Review/Approval of April Meeting Minutes

All approved.

Department Updates

Police (Adam)

- Crash incidents are well below previous years by over 50% through the middle of March. Since the pandemic and reduction in traffic, crashes are way down, less than one a day and something the Town has never seen since it started collecting data. None of the crashes involved bicycles or pedestrians and a very low number involved personal injury.
- Upcoming state and federal campaigns have been cancelled, including the Click it or Ticket campaign. The Department has grants for these campaigns.

CDTC Grant for Rock and Roll Fest was reviewed. There are several possible options. Option 1 is roll it over to 2021 and be able to keep the funds intact. Option 2 is to rescope the grant and resubmit it for use later in 2020 should conditions allow the Fest to occur. Option 3 is to develop a MOU with the CDTA. Significant discussion was held on the various options. Concern about what the possible conditions would be in the fall if we were to try to hold the Fest and what in fact we could actually do. A decision on the Fest should be made by the June meeting.

There is a concern about an increase in DWI's as Phase 2 is implemented. Police Departments are seeing their DWI funding cut and this will have an impact on what effort they will be able to enforce. Discussion on restarting the bike patrol was held. Police operations have been impacted during the pandemic and changes in operations are continuing to evolve. There is strong committee support for restarting the bike patrol for this summer as the number of cyclists and pedestrians are significantly increasing.

Planning Department

The Planning Board continues to review development applications. There is a project at the NW corner of RT 9W and Wemple Road for a new Stewarts. Planning is looking to have a new sidewalk installed as part of the project starting at the corner and proceeding north for a distance. There is also an apartment complex proposal for Wemple Road west of the RT 9W intersection. That project is planning to install a sidewalk along its street frontage. The best outcome would be to have the two projects connect their sidewalk components.

Another project they are working on is the street tree inventory management plan. There is a draft plan from the consultant that will be sent out for public comment.

Committee Identified Concerns

- Roadway Maintenance (sweeping, yard debris placement/pickup, signal maintenance, etc.)

Connie said sweeping is more about the state roads and being able to stay out of the way of cars and trucks. It's difficult to report problems to DOT. Connie reviewed the Highway Department paving schedule and noted that roads like Van Dyke and Mead Lane are on the list. These roads get a significant amount of bicycle traffic. Yard waste in the shoulder of roads continues to be a problem. There is a lack information about the issue and it was suggested that a note about placement of yard waste should be put in the next issue of the Town newsletter along with photos of where it should and should not be placed. Currently there is also a lag in pickup due to

the COVID operational issues. The committee also discussed the drafting of a more detailed list of concerns and subsequent coordination meeting between the Town, DOT, and the County.

- A discussion on Chapter 46 of town code in regard to bicycles was discussed. This item will be placed at the beginning of the agenda for the next meeting.
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Subcommittee Updates

- Education and Communication
 - Erin shared what has occurred with getting the schools to use the bike safety materials that were provided to them for use in online training for PE classes. It was well received by the schools. Social media efforts to present bike and pedestrian safety are also ongoing.
- Priority Network and Gap Analysis discussion
 - Nate, Anne and Skip met and are working on a matrix/spreadsheet. The focus is on the worst condition sidewalks and evaluating those for what priority would make the most sense in terms of what the connections are, nearby destination, etc. It would be good to coordinate this with the work Marc is doing with the Highway Department. The budget is unclear at this time given the COVID-19 crisis. Skip and Anne have a list of the worst sidewalk locations identified two years ago and will visit the locations to see if conditions have further deteriorated. They will also consider performing another crosswalk survey.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2020

Chair: Oliver

Recorder: Steven