



## Town of Bethlehem Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

### MINUTES

July 28, 2020

6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE

#### **Present**

Town representatives: Marc Dorsey, Nate Owens

Committee members: Kristin Ackerman, Anne Benware, Laura DiBetta, Connie Kontogiannis, Henry Peyrebrune, Erin Rightmyer, Mindy Scott, Erin Svare.

#### **Public Comment**

No comments received

#### **Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Deferred pending distribution of June minutes.

#### **Department Updates**

Police - Nate

- Four recent incidents (described in 7/6/20 and 7/16/20 e-mails from BPD).
- All road races in Town cancelled through September.
- There are more traffic incidents and complaints since the regional re-opening.
- Several police traffic services initiatives have been postponed or cancelled for 2020.
- Grant application was submitted for 2021 Governor's Traffic Safety Committee funding, and has been awarded. This is the largest GTSC grant ever received by BPD - \$26,490 - to address roads in Town with high accident rates.
- CDTC grant for the 2020 Walk and Roll Fest has been extended to 2021.

### Highway - Marc

- Enhanced sweeping of Town roads and sidewalks is underway. Slingerlands roundabouts also being swept by Town Highway Dept. Significant amounts of debris have been collected/removed.
- Paving work is underway and on schedule.
- Individual Highway Dept. line items are being evaluated to assist with the projected Town budget shortfall.

### Planning - Nate

- Elm Avenue subdivision - currently two access options under consideration, one includes bike/pedestrian access from Murray Avenue via Fieldstone Drive. Nate will forward SEQR documents.
- Street tree management plan - virtual meeting in August or September.
- Comprehensive Plan update - consultant has been selected and contract scope is under development. Contract will likely be reviewed by Town Board in August. More committee meetings and public forums will be scheduled in the future.

### **Sidewalk Improvements**

- Virtual meeting to be scheduled with Town departments after general agreement on meeting agenda by this committee.
- Follow-up letter (to be sent after the virtual meeting) has also been drafted by Nate for comment by this committee.
- Various items for upcoming virtual meeting were discussed by committee members, with a general agreement on the following meeting agenda:
  1. Existing condition overview, ADA objectives, priority lists (existing and new), and strategic plan.
  2. Funding requirements (from priority lists), potential funding mechanisms (re-allocation of highway/general funds, other grants, PSAF for eligible projects, public/private partnerships, special assessments, sidewalk escrow accounts, developer fees), tax cap limitations, and integration with capital improvement plan.
  3. Role of this committee in facilitating action (advisory, community conduit, education, etc.), and review of charter/mission/objectives.
- Nate will circulate an updated agenda and priority list for review and comment.
- Committee members emphasized the need for discussions to turn into actions with tangible results, while continuing to work in close partnership with all Town departments.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

#### Education and Awareness

- Erin S. provided a summary of conversations with an organizer from the "Together, We Are One Bethlehem" initiative, the importance of understanding the unique characteristics of individual neighborhoods, and applying a similar outreach strategy to the work provided by this committee.

- Youth community service and mentoring opportunities are instrumental in expanding outreach and awareness, and these initiatives need to be enhanced.

**Committee Identified Concerns**

- Laura suggested the diversification the committee membership to better reflect various neighborhoods and demographic, and several committee members expressed support of this goal.
- Connie suggested follow-up on addressing NYSDOT/County maintenance concerns expressed in prior correspondence. Nate will check with Rob Leslie on status and advise.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 25, 2020, 6:30 pm

Chair: Connie

Recorder: Henry