



**Town of Bethlehem
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

DRAFT MINUTES

April 27, 2021
6:30 PM
ZOOM MEETING

Present

Town representatives: Sup. David VanLuven, Marc Dorsey, Nate Owens, Sgt. Mike Whiteley

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

Public Comment

No comments received.

Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

No March minutes available to review/approve.

Supervisor Update

Supervisor VanLuven provided update on ARA federal stimulus rollout, which will increase sidewalk funding to \$150K/year for the next two years. He is also seeking additional sidewalk funding from another source. Immediate projects to include Fernbank/Winnie and NY 396 (Bridge/Maple), with some improvements on NY 396 to be provided as part of DOT highway reconstruction project. The increase in sidewalk funding surpasses this committee's short-term objective as a percentage of the overall Highway funding.

Department Updates

Police - Sgt. Whiteley discussed the upcoming Walk and Roll Fest event, which includes bike check, helmet check, and skills stations along with a crosswalk safety demonstration, informational booths, and participant give-a-ways. He will be forwarding the event flyer and registration link to the committee, and is currently working on promotion through lawn signs,

VMS boards, school outreach, Spotlight and Our Towne newspapers, TV news stations, and social media. Committee members (Laura, Anne) will assist with the press release and obtain bike/ped safety literature (CDTC and BCSD palm cards) for distribution. Connie is recruiting volunteers to assist with the skills stations and general organization.

Sgt. Whiteley also discussed the "walking school bus" concept, which is being considered by BCSD for several locations near elementary schools. The evaluation includes a re-assessment of fixed-location staffing requirements, and also the possibility of training HS students (junior crossing guards) to assist. Committee members (Erin S., Erin R.) expressed interest in providing feedback as the concept moves to implementation.

Planning - Nate provided an update of CPUC/Bethlehem Forward progress. The Town will be staffing an informational table at various community events (WNR Fest, Farmer's Market, concerts) to increase community awareness. He also will investigate the process for filling the vacant committee position and provide an update at the next meeting.

Highway - Marc gave an update on the Fernbank/Winnie and NY 396 sidewalk projects. He is planning to keep the street and sidewalk sweepers in operation throughout the season, and wants to include state and county roads in the sweeping schedule. The paving program has also received a funding boost from the federal stimulus program, and the proposed 2021 list of projects will be presented at the next Town Board meeting. The reconstruction of Adams Street between Kenwood and Delaware was briefly discussed - it will not happen until 2022 at earliest due to related infrastructure design work.

Marc is evaluating a second crosswalk on Hudson Avenue to access the Rail Trail. He is available to look at options for the multi-use path from the Bypass Extension to the Elm Avenue Town Park with Jason Gallo, and another potential crosswalk in the vicinity of Line Drive. And he is also considering an alternative approach to expedite the re-striping of crosswalks on County roads.

Committee Updates

BCSD Coordination - Erin S. discussed options to increase awareness of the WNR Fest and Bike to School Day (May 5) through school social media. Committee members debated the best approach to continue positive engagement with the school district, and there was consensus that designating upcoming BPC meetings to focus on particular topics (i.e, school-related issues, crosswalk safety, road maintenance, etc.) would be a good start. Nate will assist in modifying the meeting schedule to pair the focus topics with interested chairpersons.

Sidewalks - The committee's efforts to raise awareness of sidewalk issues, initiated by the November 2020 presentation (prepared by Skip, Henry, and Anne) and reinforced by further correspondence to the Town Board (prepared by Kristin) have resulted in a commitment for a funding increase that meets/exceeds the committee's expectations. The committee discussed the process for applying enhanced sidewalk funding to the maintenance priority list, and also requested that Nate clarify if any new projects should be considered for inclusion based on a critical need (e.g., sidewalk from Price Chopper Plaza to Vista).

New Funding Sources - Connie provided an update for Parkland Set Aside Fund applicability to multi-use path construction, and current funding limitations. The challenges associated with new developer fees and industrial partnerships were also briefly discussed.

Crosswalk Safety - Nate and Anne continue to look for potential funding sources for a publicized campaign. The installation of the See Me Flags at the Kenwood Avenue crossing to the Rail Trail through the joint effort of this committee and Highway Dept. has been very well received, and Marc also purchased another set for use at another un-signalized crosswalk, (possibly Cherry at Orchard), for further evaluation at the next meeting.

Road Maintenance - The expansion of the Highway Dept. mission statement was briefly discussed, and will be a topic at upcoming meetings. Continued issues and concerns with State and County road maintenance were briefly discussed. Skip has been appointed as this committee's representative to the Town's Traffic Pedestrian Management Group, and will be soliciting input from committee members prior to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 25, 2021, 6:30 pm Chair: Connie Recorder: Henry