

Town of Bethlehem Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee Meeting notes 10/26/21 6:30 PM - 8:10 PM

Public Comment

Deborah Buck, resident of Haswell Farms walks, rides and husband runs on Feura Bush to get to Elsmere Ave. Asked committee to reconsider prioritizing the Feura Bush section between Hasgate and Elsmere Ave. Made immediate request for signage.

Nate mentioned holdup due to one easement, which has been resolved.

Marc Dorsey announced that is next up this winter, weather pending (wet ground now). Should be done by Spring 2022.

Kristin A asked for update re: See Me Flags at Manor & Sudbury in Glenmont. This committee had previously agreed that this intersection would be an excellent location in town to add the flags. Marc Dorsey confirmed he is waiting on the flags (they were ordered).

Another message came through the Bike & Ped Facebook page. Erin R read it to the group, re: Ellsworth Ave, increased traffic with Rail Trail, people not following rules of road (walk left, ride right), which are different from trail rules, when everyone is expected to stay to the right and yield to pedestrians.

Nate said this can be brought to the Traffic Safety Committee (Skip on this group).

*Group suggested adding a Walk Left/Ride Right sign on Ellsworth. There are similar signs on East Poplar, on the opposite side of the trail from Ellsworth.

Approval of minutes from September meeting.

Next meeting will be on 12/7/21 (not in November).

Kenwood Ave Update:

Town working with Callanan. Possible 2 foot section of grass b/w sidewalk and road.

Complaint about white paint on curb from nextdoor site (per Dana). Engineer's report said it had to be white paint.

Engineers going over various options, nothing is settled.

Marc Dorsey - Highway Updates

Attended a conference recently and connected with NYS DOT officials.

23 miles of sidewalk in Town. Most of the town sidewalks are deficient. Town is responsible for maintaining them (sweep and snow blow).

17 miles are on State Roads/State Infrastructure and he wants to review this and ensure they are ADA compliant. Marc is working on a report.

DOT Rep, Ron Epstein, lives in town. Willing to help this committee find grant money.

Other municipalities (Guilderland, Colonie) have NY State cover sweeping, sidewalks, etc, why not Bethlehem.

Jennifer suggested getting the town's attorney involved. ADA compliance is her area of expertise.

Questions about jurisdiction and liability in light of a lawsuit.

Encourage dialogue with state officials within DOT, per Connie.

Look at the top ten list (sidewalk priorities) this committee has identified.

Henry suggested Jennifer and Mr. Potter look at the existing contract that NYS DOT made with town re: the sidewalks to clarify the language on who is responsible for funding.

Henry asked about spending update for sidewalks. Marc will provide this to the committee.

Per Marc, it costs the town 4x the amount to do a sidewalk on state roads vs. town roads b/c of engineers and other state parameters & regulations.

Jennifer suggested that this committee builds a process to handle issues with sidewalks on state roads. Specific steps to take with the state.

Henry noted the sidewalks on the priority list - encouraged Highway to note the Priority Network because they are the most heavily used.

Discussion of ranking, cost benefit analysis discussion.

Jennifer raised the issue that we reconsider priority list, especially if we think the state may be held accountable for many of these sidewalks.

Bethlehem Police - no presence or updates.

Planning Updates

Nate will work on amendments to Priority Network - not yet complete.

Grant Application for Cherry Ave Extension sent in.

Exploring applying to TIP - grant funds.

No longer an intergovernmental agreement for Rail Trail

5 priority areas

1-Schools - Erin and Dana briefly discussed Walking School Bus

2- Comp Plan Update - Anne B shared that on 11/18 there is a meeting. It will begin with a presentation on Draft Recommendations.

3- Delaware Ave Complete Streets - Vote is Tuesday 11/2

4- Sidewalk Maintenance - covered above at length

5-Road Maintenance

Suggestion from Jennifer to obtain a report re: neighboring towns and what treatment they receive from town, versus the anecdotal info we hear of. To make a stronger case.

*Find out what dollar \$ amount the Town of Bethlehem has spent on state sidewalks in town to date.