



**Town of Bethlehem
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Meeting Notes**

**March 22, 2022
6:30 pm**

In attendance: Nate, Skip, Erin R., Henry, Dana, Kristin, Erin S and Jennifer.

Minutes: Motion: Erin S., Skip Second -Minutes approved.

Voting on Chair for Committee: Nomination Skip for Chair. No other nominations put forth. Motion passed Skip for Chair.

Recorder Position: committee agreed to rotate position instead of electing the position. Jennifer took notes for this meeting. Erin S. will take notes at April 26th meeting.

Department Updates:

Police: No representative.

Nate provided update. Tuesday night is tough. Doug Austen be their representative take more presence. Doug was off tonight. Nate will ask for a walk and roll update to committee members.

Highway: No representative.

Committee discussed ways to ensure representation from police and highway at each meeting. Police representative has conflict with Town Court on Tuesdays. Nate will send follow up email with police and highway to figure out if there are updates especially for Walk and Roll.

Planning: Nate updated (Nate circulate planning update to the committee prior to the meeting).

Sidewalk discussion:

Committee discussed priority selection. Committee revisited discussion from Board representative, Maureen, last meeting. She implied the Town Board wanted to be involved. Similar to the way the Highway Sup. Goes to Bd. with roads to pave.

Nate reported that town is responsible for sidewalks on state highways. Henry questioned if that means that town was going to use town funds for town highways and not for state highways or if the town was going to rely upon state grants to complete these projects. There were concerns about this plan given the town has been unsuccessful in obtaining state funds for 20 years. Town does not score well enough on the scoring to get state funding. Nate has a meeting with Ron Epstein (DOT) later this week. There is hope that And that is this meeting will give the town a better sense of something to say in grant proposal to get better access to state funding.

Committee members once again raised concern with how priority list impacts town pedestrian pathway remediation plans. Committee members raised concerns that our recommendations are not impacting remediation decisions. Committee members raised concerns about waiting for state funds to address priority list when it was this committees recommendations to the board (with the priority list) that led to increase funding for remediation.

Proposed plan: Evaluated what has been done from committees' list and present findings to the board. Henry agreed to review the list from this and last year to see what has been done. The goal of this committee is to enhance walkability. The Committee will look to recommend a long term capable plan for walking environment. Presentation will focus on the April 27th Board meeting.

Subcommittee:

Safety Campaign: Committee reviewed RFP examples. Suggested adding goals. David passed on to staff member (Robin). Point person for the campaign. Skip shared copy of the drafted work plan Kingston shared. David is eager to get it going -wants RFP by end of March so end of April a firm would develop. He is hoping committee members could meet with the consultant to explain the Town's goals. If anyone wants scope of work Skip will share. David allocated \$50,000. City of Kingston only had allocated \$45,000.

Rail Trail: Jennifer updated -still no response from the county. Followed up prior to meeting. Suggested a plan to work to arrange for a meeting -potentially contacting country representatives to see if these reps could help with arranging for a meeting. From Mark it is not something he will commit town resources to -the right avenue is the county. Discussed Helderberg Hudson rail trail facebook group - condition assessment. Skip will follow up on volunteer trail maintenance.

New members: Four new members will be voted on at Town Board meeting tomorrow night. Reminded committee members that when you are up from reappointment you need resume and cover letter (experience on committee and what qualifies you for committee membership).

New Business: Talked about Brooklyn sidewalk, bike Lane and parking. If we can educate better/open minded we can make improvements for our town. Erin will share pictures with committee -good for presentations/discussion. Denver has a similar set up -the cars have a tough time learning how to parallel park but they managed it. Pictures could serve another purpose -for Committee -using it as a means to talk safe streets. Shared for communication plan about what it could be. Lessons learned. That money is still there and the challenge will be how to best spend it. Committee can be more than just safety -how do we envision a safer community for everyone. Transportation reimaged.

Meeting adjourned.