

## **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee Meeting Notes**

August 9, 2022 6:30 PM – 8:05 PM

Town Hall 101 and Zoom

Members in Attendance: Oliver Holmes, Dana Scalere, Erin Rightmyer, Erin Svare, Jeff Baker, Susan Landfried, AICP, Steve Redler.

Town Liaisons in Attendance: Nate Owens, AICP; Economic Development and Planning

Public in Attendance: Mario Chiarello, Joan Sharlow, Lanny Cross, Craig Connelly

Meeting called to order and led by Skip.

### Public Comment:

#### *Mario Chiarello*

- Lives off Blessing Road, 30 years
- Owned a bike shop
- Would ride to Del Lanes on bike, to girlfriends houses as a kid
- wants a Blessing Road sidewalk
- Never felt safe walking or biking on Blessing
- 320+ families live off Blessing Road – sidewalk would connect them with services on either end
- Reviewed the criteria for sidewalk projects and believe Blessing Road should be a higher priority than Cherry Ave. Extension.
- Critical factors not taken into account: Blessing Road neighborhoods have no alternative route and the lack of a shoulder prohibits safe travel along the side of the road.
- Would like Committee's assistance to document situation, identify other stakeholders and encourage other residents to come give their perspective.

#### *Joan Sharlow*

- Blessing Road is very dangerous for pedestrians – treacherous
- Important for health for people to get out and walk, especially for older age groups
- Lived in heart of Delmar and misses the walkability
- Walking the same short route to get enough total distance is boring
- Wants a safe option, at least a wider shoulder

#### *Lanny Cross*

- Congratulated Town and Committee on Cherry Ave. Extension grant.
- Blessing Road sidewalk all that is needed to connect these neighborhoods to New Scotland Road, which has an existing sidewalk and future Cherry Ave. Extension Multiuse Path would connect residents to Rail Trail and more.

Skip discussed the history of Committee efforts on sidewalk maintenance and improving the funding resources that go toward sidewalks. Nate

### Minutes Approval

June meeting minutes approved.

### Department Updates

- Nate provided Economic Development and Planning Dept. update via email ahead of the meeting.
- Erin Rightmyer raised issue of see me flags disappearing. Marc had previously said that Highway could replace them as the disappeared, but may still be backordered. Erin R. and Erin S. said they would get in touch with Marc.
- Erin Svare raised concern about the Feura Bush sidewalk and contractor concrete price issue holding up/delaying the sidewalk installation. Nate searched his email and found confirmation that 2020 bid price will be honored through the term. Nate and Skip said they would get a status update for Committee

### BCSD Fall class start

- Committee discussed putting up electronic message boards again. Nate will contact Marc.
- Bethlehem Middle School Access issue discussed. School kids would enter and exit school grounds via rear access, but few years back the gate was locked, prohibiting use of this safe access option. Erin Svare mentioned that she brought up issue with Town Supervisor and School District, but each pointed to the other as responsible to address the issue. Raising issue again to find ways to facilitate a conversation to get issue resolved. Possible complaint by neighbor following pickup of tennis players. Possible Town-owned easement covering access area. Skip and Nate will raise topic at next Traffic Pedestrian Management Committee meeting.

### Subcommittee Updates

#### *Public Safety Campaign*

- Skip said that Town would select firm CivicEye for the campaign
- Skip would send the committee their video advert about passing bicycles, very effective
- Nate described the advantages of selected firm CivicEye over the other finalist firm, KathodeRay.

#### *Speed Humps*

- Skip said he would share the draft materials with the committee

-Steve described the Tarrytown process for neighborhood voting for temporary speed hump, then if passes the temporary speed hump installed. Then vote to upgrade from temporary speed hump to permanent one.

#### Items for Fall agendas

- Skip asked committee members to send their ideas for future agenda items.
- One item could be the Fall walk/bike to school day

#### New Business

Steve Redler raised concern about Nathaniel and Dyer Terrace intersection and safety of children who live nearby. Skip and Nate said the issue would be discussed at the next Traffic Pedestrian Management Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned.