

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting Summary

10/30/23

Members in Attendance: Peter Thomas, Jeff Baker, Robert Ellis, Jennifer Livingston, Dee-Fisher-Golden, Lynelle Bosworth, Nicole Cheplowitz

Town Staff in Attendance: Nate Owens, Marc Dorsey, Jason Hammond

Public Comment: no public comments

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Waited on September minutes for next meeting – low attendance at beginning of meeting.

Members commented at start of meeting, appreciating the progress that Peter has made on Facebook/social media.

Department Updates

Town Traffic Pedestrian Safety Committee – Nate will follow up on next meeting date. Following Robin's retirement, staff have not had a meeting.

Police Department – Not in attendance

Highway Department – Progress made on Town sidewalks, leaf pickup now.

Planning Department – Attached summary from Planning Department. Items for discussion "Priority List" below.

Sidewalk Maintenance -Delaware Ave -Engineering completing to DOT. Committee asked that when the proposal is submitted back to DOT the Committee is notified. The Committee will then decide whether to speak with elected officials again.

Solicitations came out for State funding. 7 Applications are in process. There is a question to bundle or keep them separate. Mark is reaching out to DOT. There is an idea of putting together a package for all state pedestrian pathways and going after the full 5 million maximum. Jennifer suggested looking at Troy, NY for the state funding received for downtown pedestrian pathway remediation.

We discussed moving forward and how the committee might be able to support the proposal by speaking with local and state representatives after the proposal has been completed.

Safety Campaign: Videos are finalized. Looking to push them out in the spring when we have all the resources. Committee asked what venues we are using to push out. We discussed our new online activity for the Committee. There is a thought to relaunch in the Spring with a ramp up in the wintertime. There is a thought of doing radio ads and YouTube/Facebook. The launch will be close to when the Town anticipates launching the lower of speed limit.

Speed Limit: Got a Technical Assistance (TA) grant with an action plan (whitepaper). It details how lowering the speed limit makes sense from a traffic engineering perspective. CRTC is the contractor for the TA grant. Need have justification for lowering and where.

Speed Hump: Process is being refined. The speed hump request process will involve the Town Board. The Town is working on final edits to the process. A process will be shared on the website possibly next month.

Committee reviewed Sidewalk Priority List: Discussed New Scotland/Hamlet/Slingerlands Bypass. Plans would be mixed use (shops and residence together). Committee asked if there was room to expand path on New Scotland -discussed exploring wider facilities. Committee discussed whether the group wanted to prioritize more connected infrastructure.

Discussed approaching residents where two-sided sidewalk is not needed. How to work to get one side remediated and the other side removed. Maybe presenting that additional sidewalk would be available to the residents if both sides do not need to be remediated. Lincoln Ave/Snowden -were discussed as a possible pilot. Nate suggested using the Active Transportation Plan and consultant assistance process to pose this question. He said the Town does not currently have resources to do the necessary public engagement effort.

Committee asked if there is any interface with Cherry Ave/Rail trail to engage the County. The Town would be responsible for maintaining after the construction.

We discussed revisiting "both sides" sidewalks and coming up with a ranking system on whether both sides are needed. Question about which side is the best side/how to determine.

We also discussed having a separate list for "New" and "remediation" and have a place in the document where there are gaps that need to be filled to connect pedestrian pathways. Short gaps of around 1000 feet would be good to see. Nate mentioned the spreadsheet can be filtered to separate new and maintenance. Committee discussed doing sidewalk on both sides whether we can look at making those connections when we discuss with residents removing one side and the remediation.

The Committee agreed that we are okay with how the ranking list appears -if there are any other comments send them to Nate. Suggestion for annual funding column (vs. grant fund column).

Comment about CRTC bike map inaccuracies.

School Safety: Discussed attending a meeting with the schools to communicate on behalf of the Committee. Discussed establishing a subcommittee to improve communication with the schools. Committee discussed the safety pledge with the schools to create education. There is a consensus to engage the schools. There was some interest from the PTO to have the conversations on safety. Doug Austin is the Committee connection with the Police Department. Committee member will reach out to find the right contact from the Police Department.

A couple of years ago there was some interest in having the schools participate in this meeting in August (back to school). But that did not come to fruition. This would need to come from the Committee. Nate said he would gather emails from that time and share with Committee.

Jennifer will attend the meeting on November 6th.

Discussion of BikePed email address and sending emails from it. Request for Town email access with sending capability. Or staff to send on behalf of committee.

Adjourn 8:25pm