



**Town of Bethlehem
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

Minutes

January 23, 2024

6:30 PM

In person and Zoom

Highlighted Items

1. Social Media Posts -Share posts for social media of interest with Committee member for posting
2. Review Sidewalk Priority Map for School District busing discussions
3. Public Meetings on Delaware Ave Sidewalk Projects will be posted soon
4. Supervisor State of the Town at 5pm before next Board Meeting
5. Follow up with Fisher Blvd Letter to determine if Police Department can collect data and work on enforcement
6. Add Walk and Roll to the Agenda -discuss collaboration with Middle School/High School for projects. We need to determine which rep from Police Department will be assigned before next meeting. Discussed needing to identify school contacts for volunteers and projects for the Walk and Roll.
7. Connect with School District about sidewalk projects and information for overlay map
8. Committee discussed adding 2024 goals for the Committee as an agenda item for February 2024.

Agenda Items Discussed

- Public Comment -No public comment
- Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 2023 -Committee Approved Minutes
- Department Updates
 - Police Department -No Representative present.
 - Highway Department -No Representatives present.

Walk and Roll needs to be added to the agenda for next meeting.

- Committee Membership
 - Erin Rightmeyer has resigned from committee
 - New members needed -Discussed recruitment and request that all members consider staying on Committee.
- Planning Department Update sent prior to meeting

- Discussion of any items of interest to committee members
- Updates
 - Delaware Ave sidewalk project

Nate updated -Economic Developer and Developer meeting with businesses for the detailed design. The detailed design with engineering is happening now for Elsmere and Town Entrance from Albany. There will be another public meeting -it has not been scheduled. Nate will report back to Committee at next meeting.

- Public Safety Campaign- spring 2024 rollout

The plan is to roll out campaign in the Spring. Tomorrow evening before the Board meeting there is a state of the town and Supervisor will speak about safe streets. It starts at 5 pm. Committee members are encouraged to attend. The Town Board meeting is broadcast. Committee discussed whether this includes the 5 pm State of the Town. Nate is going to check if live broadcast. Other topics includes what happened throughout the year and the plans for the coming year.

- Speed Humps –process under review

We are exploring speed cushions. A cushion is a speed hump with sections that are cut out so the tracks of a fire truck can go through without slowing down. But passenger vehicles will have to slow down. The town is looking at that on Thatcher -there have been request to remove and the town is exploring this option to keep the speed hump but address concerns. Town has heard from Hackett and there is interest in speed humps. The Town received complaints from fire districts and these changes are being considered to address these concerns.

Committee asked whether snowplow complaints. Highway said there is a little snow left on the side of the hump but plowing is not substantially impacted. With the groves with the speed cushions that will impact snowplowing. So this is being taken into consideration.

Committee discussed speed humps in other villages (Voorheesville) -There was a question whether there is too many speed humps in the design leading to complaints.

Discussed making speed hump design a neighborhood design and there is also recommendation to do studies prior to installation of traffic to determine how much more traffic on alternative routes so that post installation the alternative route traffic can be assessed with real data.

Committee discussed whether a post report on speed hump installation would be helpful to evaluate what worked and why and how the Town had responded to complaints/concerns. This could be presented as a FAQ to help direct people to information. Questions about whether temporary speed humps should be reconsidered as part of the process.

- Social media

Committee discussed that starting in December there is very little in traffic safety on social media to repost. Committee suggested that while there is a limited amount of information to repost we could post on things going on in the Town. Reporting updates on Safe Streets, the State of the Town (Complete Streets), potential for 25 m/h speed.

- Committee support
- Items for discussion
 - Sidewalks Comprehensive Plan 2024/2025 – Nate

Discussed plan -Blessing will be a multi-use path (submitted in the grant). Town submitted several grants and it is estimated we will hear in April 2024.

- BCSD Walking distances
- New Sidewalks schedule tool

Committee reviewed overlay map related to sidewalk conditions and walking distances.

Committee discussed sharing information and maps with school district. We discussed sharing information about sidewalk remediation and the timeline for remediation. Nate is going to follow up with Town on potential outreach with information.

- Network Priority map

We discussed 2024 allocation if the bundled state roads projects are going to be in 2025/2026 due to the grant funding. Committee discussed map related to school access.

New Items

- Fisher -we discussed response from DOT on speeding. Committee discussed whether Bethlehem Police can put up covert checker. We also discussed whether letter was shared with Bethlehem Police for enforcement. This will be added to agenda item for February 2024 Committee Meeting.
- Committee discussed whether we need goals for the Committee in 2024 and whether we should seek a survey. Discussed wanting to discuss this after the State of the Town and adding this to the February 2024 meeting agenda.
- Adjourn
- Next Meeting: February 27, 2024 (Zoom/ in person)