



**Town of Bethlehem
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2024

6:30 PM

In person only

Attendees

Richard Thomas
Sarah Rain
Jeff Baker
Nicole Cheplowitz
Lynnelle Bosworth
Jennifer Livingston
Peter Thomas
Skip Holmes -Chair

Welcomed new members and introduced Committee Members

- Public Comment

One Public Comment – Community is interested in two different crosswalks one in Slingerlands crossing New Scotland between Carstead and Caldwell. And another near the YMCA crossing (crosswalk) over Delaware Ave. The Committee member recognized that this would require a sidewalk. Skip shared that this is an issue that the Town is aware of and discussed some of the challenges with getting landowners permitting easement. Community member shared that there is challenges from Slingerland Elementary students not having a crosswalk. We discussed that there is not a sidewalk. We discussed that the Committee shared comment about that area of the roadway and speed. The Committee shared the State's response. We will see if the Town can publish the response with these meeting notes. The Committee will discuss with Town whether there has been any progression on the crosswalk near YMCA.

- Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 2024 -Motion Approved -Approved.
- Department Updates
- **Police Department** – No rep present. Walk and Roll Fest May 18, 2024 Community Care Parking lot. Committee will ask for an update on Walk and Roll and email to Committee Member. Committee Member suggested that we use facebook groups

(BuyNothing) to seek volunteers. Skip will contact Police Rep to determine whether Committee needs to get more volunteers.

- **Highway Department** – No rep present.
- **Planning Department Update** – No rep present. Notes sent prior to meeting and copied below:

Delaware Ave Complete Streets

1. NYSDOT is reviewing the draft project design report and CHA and the Town are waiting for comments. We hope to have them by the end of the month.
2. Features of the plan include: pavement resurfacing and restriping; additional space between travel lanes and curbs for pedestrian safety; “gateway” treatments at east and west end of corridor—brief extensions of existing 2-lanes sections, plus turn median; 1 new mid-block pedestrian crossing at east end with flashing beacon (RRFB), with median; 1 new signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing between Elsmere Ave and Delaware Plaza, with median; targeted sidewalk improvements and ADA curb ramps; targeted driveway narrowing; and posted speed limit reduction to 30mph.
3. When the public meeting date is set, Planning Department will send out a separate email letting everyone know so those who are able to attend can hold on your calendars.

CDPHP Cycle! Bike Share

4. Following the Town Board meeting, the MOU between the Town and CDTA has been executed.
5. Town staff, CDTA, and Albany County are discussing the CDPHP Cycle! program and hub locations. The County’s concerns about speeding cyclist activity on the Rail Trail could mean a possible delay on rollout, different hub locations, or both.

Bethlehem Safe Streets

6. AudioGo platform launched and social media posts are going out.
7. *Stickers and lawn signs available for distribution.* If you’re passing by Town Hall M-F, 8:30-4:30pm, you can stop in and pick some stickers and/or signs up to distribute. We can discuss a sign-up to distribute to businesses at next week’s meeting.

Local Road Speed Limit Reduction Action Plan

8. Staff wrapped up the technical assistance project with CRTC and are now working to get a traffic engineering consultant on board to help the Town with certifying the report details and getting to/through the local law adoption stage.

Kenwood Ave. Traffic Calming Study

9. Planning is wrapping up the report document with CHA and I’ll send out to the Committee when complete.
10. The project webpage has been transferred over from the external site to the Town website and the final document will be added there as well.

Cherry Ave Ext. Multiuse Path

11. Town and CPL submitted the project design report to NYSDOT for review and are waiting for comments.
12. Town staff and CPL met with McCormack Rd. North neighbors to discuss concerns about removal of turn lane and engineering standards supporting the change.

Miscellaneous

13. Updated the active pedestrian/bike development applications sheet – see attached.
14. Former Bike and Ped Committee member Steve LeBoyer, owner of Savile Road bike shop, had a grand opening earlier this month at a new location – 333 Delaware Ave.

Committee Comments on Planning Department Updates:

The Committee asked whether there was a role for the Committee to participate in the reports produced by Planning (for example Cherry Ave) before the reports are produced. To provide comment before report is issued. The idea would be that the report could include a statement that the Bike/Ped Committee review the Report before publication to the Town.

Committee Suggested creating a list of items where development is happening in the Town. The Committee questioned whether the list created by Planning - Active Development Applications with Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Considerations is that list and requested more detail about this list at the next meeting.

- Elsmere Bike to School Day May 16, 2024, 8:45 to 9:30 am
- **Updates**
 - Delaware Ave sidewalk project -See above.
 - Safe Streets Safety Campaign- spring 2024 rollout -See below
 - Social media support for Safe Streets Campaign

Committee Members will work with Planning to distribute safe street stickers and signs. Committee request that the Town considers a producing a post that the then can be posted with a picture of the stickers and signs and explains where the stickers and signs are available for public pick up. We would just need an image and a small blurb that is shared by the Town and we can repost as a Committee.

- Items for discussion
 - Sidewalks Comprehensive Plan 2024/2025 – No updates
 - New Sidewalks schedule tool – No updates. Planning will share with Committee at next Committee Meeting.
 - Network Priority map -Committee Members will review map at May 2024 meeting.
- New Business

Rail Trail -County wants to meet with Committee on best practice on signage. Committee sent link of signage on rail trail (speed and behavior). The County wants input on best practices. Friends of the Rail Trail -created a report that could be shared with the County. Peter will share this report and Lynnelle will get date for meeting with the County.

Voorheesville Family Bike Day -June 2, 2024 -12 -3 pm. Committee is considering setting up a meet and bike to the event. This will be posted on social media account.

- Adjourn
- Next Meeting: May 28, 2024 (Zoom/ in person)