

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes May 28, 2024

Attendance – Skip Holmes, Peter Thomas, Jeff Baker, Steve Redler, Richard Thomas, Dee Fisher-Golden, Elizabeth Vasquez, Nate Owens

Public Comments – none

Review and Approval of meeting minutes of April 2024: conditioned on amending comments of additional crosswalk on New Scotland Road and a new sidewalk along Delaware Avenue going to YMCA.

Department updates: None as Highway and Police Department were absent

Planning Updates:

Delaware Avenue Complete Streets project discussion: An update was provided and discussion about two elements of the design followed. The proposed pedestrian crossing near Salisbury Ave and Delaware Ave has a proposed Hawk Signal or Hybrid Flashing Beacon. The NYS DOT review has said that the crosswalk lights are not warranted due to an insufficient number of pedestrian crossings in the vicinity of the proposed new crosswalk. It was suggested that the data collected last year may not represent the current situation as more vehicles are now on the road as more people are returning to work. Committee discussed that community comments for the new crosswalk along with flashing lights to DOT may influence the final decision.

The project has a basis of a Complete Streets design which included modifications to the roadway for pedestrian safety and lowering the speed limit from the current 40 mph for the 1.1 mile section to 30 mph given that sections for the roadway west and east are currently 30 mph. The Town currently has a Safe Streets campaign underway that includes a proposal to lower the speed limits on certain streets. Committee discussed possibility that community comments for the proposed lower speed limit to DOT may influence the final decision.

Delaware Ave Sidewalk project and other sidewalks in the grant application: Waiting to hear if any or all of the proposed sidewalks will be awarded funding.

Safe Streets Safety Campaign is underway any stickers and lawn signs are available for pick up at Town Hall.

Social Media campaign: Is ongoing

Traffic Safety Committee: Now has a new email address for community members to address complaints to. Committee discussion of dirt bike/ATV speeding through neighborhoods. Nate will bring up at next Traffic Safety Team meeting.

Bicycle Racks: A bicycle rack has been selected that will be promoted for use by local businesses to attract bicyclists to use local businesses.

Rail Trail signage/rules: **Waiting to hear from Lynelle.**

Other discussion items: Nate will update the Priority Network map link on the town website to the most current version.

New business; A discussion about signage to identify local businesses, points of interest and local attractions in town and near the rail trail. Suggestions about having kiosks with maps showing attractions was discussed similar to the one constructed in Voorheesville at the end of the County rail trail. A suggestion was made to contact the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce to see if there was interest in this. Skip agreed to make the contact. Discussion about pedestrian and bicycle routes to inform the community how to get to the rail trail, local businesses and points of interest. There are signs on town roads that show to get to the schools and town playground. Additional signage to guide pedestrians and bicyclists' to other destinations would be useful. Additional routes along town roads would be developed from the priority network map. The Highway department will be contacted to see if they could assist.

Next meeting: Discussion on the next meeting and tentatively decided to hold the June meeting if there is sufficient items for the committee. July and August meetings are typically not held.

Adjournment at 8:15 pm.