

Meeting Notes

6/25/2024

Attendees:

Lynelle Bosworth
Skip (Oliver) Holmes (Chair)
Dee Fisher-Golden
Steve Redler
Richard Thomas
Sarah Rain
Jennifer Livingston
Nate Owens (Town Rep)
Peter Thomas

Action Items:

- Committee Member (Lynelle) will be setting meeting with County to discuss Rail Trail Signage
- Committee Members to participate in July 18th Event. Chair (Skip) will follow up with organizers to confirm that Bike Course can be done at the event. This will require Committee volunteers for the event.
- Committee asks via email High Department update on Sidewalk Maintenance Project 2024.
- Town Rep (Nate) will follow up with Public Works on National Grid Easement Elm Park
- Committee Members review Meeting minutes and respond with vote via email
- Chair (Skip) will speak with Chamber about Rail Trail Bike Path to Business project -See "Priority Map"

- **Public Comment:**

One community public comment -question about e-bike. Committee clarified ebikes on sidewalk and rail trail. Committee stated that there is no restriction on Bethlehem sidewalks. Committee clarified that rail trail is Albany County. Suggested that speaking with the police department who use ebikes and are versed in ebike usage.

- **Review of Meeting Minutes, May 2024** – Committee Decided to vote via email to give members time to review the minutes.
- **Department Updates**
 - Police Department -No representative present
 - Highway Department -No representative present -See "Sidewalk" below.
 - Planning Department Updates sent prior to meeting (attached to meeting notes)
 - Approval of Grant by NYS. Design planned in 2025 and construction 2026. Out of \$5.2 Million Town contribution is \$500,000.
 - Delaware Ave Project -Anticipate 2025 construction. Letters assisted in getting RFB. Still waiting on speed limit reduction. Recommended that we wait for any further letter campaign until we receive a response on the speed limit.

- **Update**

- Delaware Ave Complete Streets projects -See above
- Safe Streets Campaign: Campaign materials are being distributed. Videos and radio ads are being distributed. Committee Members shared where stickers were distributed. Additional stickers will continue to be shared.
- Traffic Safety Committee: Last meeting had fewer members because of absence. No new items shared during Committee meeting. Speed Humps: Mid-June hired CSA to look at locations for speed humps for Murry. Then looked at speed cushions which are better for emergency vehicles/busses. Town is engaging with Fire/Safety and School on how speed humps impact operation. A Speed Cushion is a speed hump that has grown down paths -wide enough so they fit the emergency vehicle/bus but not a car.
- Bike Racks: Trying to encourage business to locate them around the businesses. There is a proposal from the Bethlehem Chamber would purchase the racks at cost and then sell to businesses. The Town of Bethlehem Chamber and the Town of Guilderland Chamber are working together.
- Bikes, Burgers, Beverages is July 18th This is a Bethlehem Chamber event -Committee plans on attending with table -stickers/safe streets campaign materials distributed. Committee discussed ideas for the event. Considering setting up obstacle course similar to the Bike and Roll event. Committee member will check with coordinator of event to confirm that liability waivers have been obtained to set up event.
- Rail Trail Signage: The County is ready to meet with us. Committee member spoke with County and will propose dates when Committee members can meet with the County on the Rail Trail.
- National Grid Elm Ave Park Easement – Committee member spoke with National Grid and was told the Town is speaking with them. Committee member will wait for a response from Public Works before proceeding with any additional contact.
- Sidewalks – Update unknown. Committee will ask Highway Department representative to share any sidewalk updates via email after the meeting to be included with the meeting minutes.

- **Items for Discussion**

- Discussion occurred related to new sidewalk verses multiuse paths. Committee discussed considerations when thinking about installing new sidewalk verses multiuse paths in rural areas. Committee discussed materials, accessibility, remediation, plowing.
- Cherry Ave: Summary Report from Engineering. They met with neighbors. The Town will move forward with removing lane but still getting DOT's comments. Committee member asked about Arboretum. Engineering works better on the East Side of Cherry Ave. Discussed connecting sidewalk from roundabout to Pine Hollow Road Arboretum. Discussed more formal crossing at New Scotland and Pine Hollow. Discussed working with Landowner off of McCormack Road for access to the Arboretum.
- Priority Network Map: Discussed ideas for increasing bike path/trail information for bikers. Committee member presented on the current map and ideas for increasing awareness. Discussed idea of using trail signage to share knowledge of the bike paths through Bethlehem, to businesses, to bike shops. Discussed engaging Chamber and Bike associations/collectives to support a project for sharing these bike paths. Committee

discussed building on the work of others and trying to ensure that any project is maintained by entities other than the Town. Skip will reach out to Chamber to explore project/effort to draw people from the Trail to the Town businesses.'

- Adjourn 8:28 PM
- Next Meeting September 24, 2024