



**Town of Bethlehem
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2024

7:00 PM

In person and Zoom

Attendees

Skip (Oliver) Holmes (Chair)
Steve Redler
Sarah Rain
Jennifer Livingston
Nate Owens (Town Rep)
Peter Thomas
Elizabeth Vasquez
Jeff Baker
Lynelle Bosworth (Zoom)

Action Items:

- Public Comment

Community Member said Pedestrian Safety is not good on Hudson Avenue. Committee said that the Town has been made aware, and Community Member said it has slowed down but not much. The first signage might be too far up the road. Second Community Member raised concerns about Hudson as a cut through and speed issues. Want better signage on either end. Signage is hidden by trees.

Community Member talked about sidewalk between Bypass and Elsmere Ave. There was an accident with a dog last week. Noticed it is on the priority map and Community Member wondered the status.

Community Member commented on complete streets. Is there a way of putting a bike trail onto Delaware Ave from Bike Trail? Committee raised concerns with adding this due to design restraints. For example, one challenge properly between Elsmere to next to Hannaford -it is Albany Waterboard Property -it is very difficult to get the easements to do a project. Committee member shared two cut through for bike trail that does exist for Delaware (Mason and Rockefeller Road). The county had plans to develop (prior to COVID) a bike route.

There was a question about whether bikes can go on sidewalks. Committee confirmed that bikes can go on sidewalks.

Community Member asked whether there was a safe way for Fisher Blvd to Rail Trail. Committee shared that as part of the grant to replace sidewalks on state roads the Town hopes to look at new crossing as part of the project.

- Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 2024 – Meeting minutes approved as amended.
- Department Updates
 - Police Department -No representative present
 - Highway Department -No representatives present
 - Planning Department Update sent prior to meeting
 - Meeting updates included with the meeting notes. (see attached)
 - **Speed humps** -Murry Ave up for paving next year. The idea would be to move this decision in the Spring of 2025. There was feedback received from fire/EMS. Town wants to set up meeting with Fire/EMS before proceeding. This would result in decision on traffic calming measures anticipated next year. Committee member asked about whether bicyclist is being consider. Planning is looking at making this accessible for wheelchair and this would also accommodate bicyclist.
 - **Delaware Ave Complete Streets** -Speed limit proposal from 40 to 30. Discussed whether State DOT can put that at 35. This is a state DOT decision. The Town is looking at speed and will push for full speed limit reduction.
 - **New Software Tool Discussed:** Committee Chair identified a Software Company that is capturing data from cars, navigation systems, to capture speed and counts. For example, one street that the Town is looking at is a street that the data showed 28 MPH -verses complaints received by the community. It shows you where speeding is happening and the patterns. This allows Town to see what the impact of speed humps in diverting traffic. The volume data is not quite what we want to see but there is some valuable data. Once we subscribe we can see how pre-Complete Street and post-Complete Street project. So if NYDOT does not change speed the way we want we can use actual data to advocate for changes with NYDOT. The Town can also use data to impact advocacy for lower speed limits in the Town. This can also assist with enforcement for the police department where there is increase speeding during a time of day.
- Updates
 - Sidewalk grants -no additional updates since last meeting.
 - Safe Streets Safety Campaign -Still ongoing. Signage is still available at the Town Supervisors office. There are lawn signs and stickers. Community member mentioned lawn signs in Colonie NY.
 - Rail Trail signage – List of suggestions to share with Albany County, September 17 meeting. Meeting with County staff who are working on signage related to usage of the Trail. They are finalizing signs (the meeting hit on tone and other trail signs). Talked about using the signs to highlight local business or other stops. County reported that this was something that was underway. Also, asked if this trail could be connected to the NYS Trail and eligible for additional funds. Also raised concerns about outreach program -the public is not able to get information about the trail effectively. There was a suggestion of an app that

could allow someone on the trail to access information while on trail -shared example of other trails in other communities. The county had a large number of staff at the meeting and the line of communication with the Town is now open. They are receptive to our concerns and comments. The County asked us to reinforce trail etiquette. Committee member raised concerns about walkers and impact on cyclists (headphones, dog leashes). Committee will continue to send out reminders and speak with different groups.

- Network Priority map -Committee discussed how the tool was developed for Community members present at the meeting.

- Adjourn –8.02 PM

- Next Meeting: October 22, 2024 (Zoom/in person)