



**Town of Bethlehem  
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

## **Meeting Notes**

January 28, 2025

6:30 PM

**In person and Zoom**

### **Attendees**

Skip (Oliver) Holmes (Chair)

Jennifer Livingston (Zoom)

Elizabeth Vasquez (Zoom)

Dee Fisher (Zoom)

Peter Thomas

Jeff Baker

Richard Thomas

Steve Redler

Nate Owens (Town Rep)

Nicole Cheplowitz

- Public Comment -No public comment at meeting. Discussed facebook message "Directed to Committee ..regular concern that drivers do not stop for crosswalk for high school students." We recommended sharing safe street signs and need to see if ad spend budget. Committee discussed "State of the Town" and safe streets priority. To expand knowledge and the push for the 25 mile speed limit. Traffic Safety Committee that has been established continues to get reports and complaints. Committee discussed DOT survey to assess crosswalk. Committee discussed sharing this concern with Police Department rep and the Traffic Safety Committee to respond. Police already have a presence at the high school during dismissal and arrival times.

The Committee discussed processes for responding to comments back and the response from the Committee to the comment.

- Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 2024 -approved by Committee
- Department Updates
  - Police Department -no police representative present
  - Highway Department - no highway representative present

- Planning Department Update sent prior to meeting

#### State Road Sidewalk Replacements Project

-Staff reviewing EOs from engineering firms for: preliminary design, final design, and construction support and inspection services.

-Construction will be bid out separately following design phases.

-Design to occur in 2025 and early 2026 with construction planned for Spring 2026.

#### Speed Limit Reduction Project

-Staff working on an inventory of existing signs that will need to be replaced.

-Staff will begin work on a community education campaign.

-Town Board process to change the speed limit on local residential streets to happen this year – timeline TBD.

-Multiple departments will meet in early-mid February to discuss implementation details.

#### Delaware Ave. Complete Streets Project

-Right of way consultant working on property acquisitions – slivers of land needed on 9 properties near Salisbury/Snowden for the mid-block crosswalk.

-Next major goal/milestone is to get bidding out the project for construction, expected late March / early April.

-Construction expected to start late this Spring.

#### Cherry Ave Multiuse Path

-At next week's meeting, I'll bring up the PS&E plans and go over the final design of the path and detail next steps.

#### Zoning Code Update

-Planning Board to begin discussions on administrative procedures and requirements for review of various kinds of development actions.

-Subdivision regulations and incentive zoning are important upcoming topics relevant to the Committee. More details to come.

-Staff continue to collect and document comments on the draft Zoning Map.

#### Trader Joe's (Glenmont Plaza Redevelopment)

-Last meeting, Committee members had concerns regarding the "Regional Grocery" going in at Glenmont Plaza (now confirmed to be Trader Joes). The project was actually before the Planning Board at the [December 3 meeting](#) for an initial project presentation. You can watch the video via the link at the top of the page (item starts at 41:30) and see the staff memo, traffic study, or drawings (see agenda item VI. B.).

Committee member commented that the recording did not have a large discussion on traffic and the number of parking spaces available.

Committee discussed new development and the role the Committee takes when new development proposals are submitted. The Committee discussed the rules and policies that the Town is putting out which promote bicycle and pedestrian access.

- Updates
  - Sidewalk grant projects -see update above
  - Traffic Safety Committee- see public comment above
  - Sidewalk maintenance projects completed in 2024 -list
- Items for discussion
  - Traffic calming -see public comment above

Discussed Murray Ave. speed slots schedule.

- Cherry Avenue plan and schedule -see planning notes above
- New business -

Discussed bike share program. There was 400 rides which was low. But the Committee mentioned that there were not that many bikes. Committee discussed expansion but also discussed the resistance from the County of having this program on the rail trail.

Discussed rail trail projects from the County on educating bicyclist, the opening of the bathroom at the rail trail and signage of businesses. There is discussion about teaming up with a health care provider to have the way station be a partnership for community health.

Discussed ways that the Committee can track and comment on newer projects and bike activities.

Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items discussed:

- Social Media posts and different messaging ideas for safe streets. Ideas for tying in messaging to getting more people out (public health benefits) or meeting your neighbor. Committee might want to look at ways of expanding safe streets and discuss forming a smaller group to brainstorm ideas.
- Discussed planning an event that increases exposure to bicyclists. Discussed incorporating a larger group of cyclists to get visibility factor up.
- Upcoming meetings
  - February – Zoning Update
  - March – Sidewalks maintenance 2025
  - Leading up to May - Walk and Roll Fest

Discussed opportunity for committee members to help with some data collection and analysis that would help Committee better understand/plan for grants/prioritize outreach and improvements.

- Adjourn
- Next February 25, 2025 (Zoom/ in person)