

**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem  
Meeting Summary  
February 22, 2011**

Present: Anne Benware, Scott Lewendon, Dan Lewis, Henry Peyrebrune, Alan Via, Ann Mullaly,  
Mark Jordan, Caleb Wistar, Oliver holmes, Kristin Legere  
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Rob Leslie, Jason Gallo, Erik Deyoe

**Comments on January Meeting Summary**

Rob explained the format and purpose of the CDTA Albany County Route Restructuring Presentation. Feedback from the public was solicited through both an open ended discussion and “dot exercise” regarding what current services are working / not working and suggestions for new routes. Based on the information and suggestions that CDTA collects at all the local public meetings a proposal will be presented to the County. Prior to their proposal to the County a handful of additional public meetings will be scheduled to discuss and review their suggestions.

**Review Long Term Committee Goals/Tasks – 3E’s**

A brief synopsis from Rob of our long term committee goals, recommendations and accomplishments, as outlined in our August Memo to the Town Board, was reviewed for the committee. A discussion of how to best move forward and address a programmatic approach to the 3 E’s (Engineering, Education and Enforcement) followed. Town Staff suggested sub-committees so that every month each one of the three E’s could be an agenda item with updates and information provided by committee members, instead of solely provided/driven by Town Staff.

The thought was focusing on one item at a time might drag out work that might be otherwise accomplished sooner if it was carried out among the sub committees.

Mark Jordan said the 20/20 committee uses sub committees and this new approach for 20/20 has in a way jump started some work making their regular meetings more productive.

Dan asked would sub-committees meet separately and would these meetings be considered a public meeting?

Jason said that if sub-committees did meet on the side it would not be considered a public meeting nor would it be mandatory for them to meet on the side. However meeting outside of normal monthly meeting dates as a sub-committee could further along any potential sub-committee work and help drive agenda items/direction.

Henry – Would Town staff be assigned as a liaison to these sub-committee? A lot of the work that was done over the past two years was driven by the Town Staff and as individual members we would not have the same resources and access to information to produce reports.

Rob - Staff resources would still be there. But the sub-committees could take the lead in spearheading some of the initiatives. Future success, particularly in the area of education, will require the efforts of committee members to take the lead.

Erik – Town Staff does not necessarily have expertise in some areas that other committee members may have, i.e. education.

Henry – That also cuts the other way, Town Staff would carry more weight when making recommendations, like to the School District. Based on experiences in the past with BCPS it was mixed in having the administration receive work and suggestions from citizens.

Jason - I still see the committee as a whole making large scale decisions and tackling large scale initiatives but with more opportunities for the sub-committees to bring agenda items, work & ideas to the table. With our commitment to a programmatic approach, focusing on one of the E’s at a time would potentially hold us back.

Anne B.– Perhaps together as a committee we can layout work tasks for the subcommittee? But to echo Henry, what was productive in the past for us was the work that was brought forth by the Town Staff.

Rob – We are not going to lose that.

Henry – But you may find your work multiplied.

Oliver – In terms of a process approach the sub-committees could focus on anyone of the 3 areas and bring a balanced composition to provide integration at the lowest level, so you can hear all items and not wait to bring it up further and still continue dialogue.

Kristin – These items already seemed integrated and not sure how we would do our accomplishments without discussing all of them at the same time.

Oliver – Alternative approach would be to look at it as a series of tasks that members of the committee would focus on and have all three components look at tasks and challenges.

Mark – Each of the three E's would have a different level of involvement from the professional staff. As for enforcement Mark has already Spoke to the Police Chief Lou Corsi. Mark would like to address the enforcement side of the 3 E's.

Jason – In putting this committee together the idea was to balance the various expertises we all have as professionals to better help address our goals and tasks going forward.

Dan – Not oppose to the setting up of sub-committees but would hate to lose the dynamic of these meetings which pull in different expertise from various walks of life and with the help of professional staff to accomplish some amazing stuff. Body of work should not be put on the shoulders of the sub-committees.

Mark – 20/20 does not just have committee reports and adjourn, there is active discussion and interaction surrounding the reports and this has been helpful.

Kristin – Not every topic would have to come up as a full committee discussion and in developing outreach materials sub-committees could develop and then bring it to the committee for review and discuss. But the sub-committees would need a place to start.

Dan – Tasks initiated by the committee and delegated out to sub-committees would be fine but expectations of sub-committees to meet on their own in order to bring items to present for discussion would not be as appropriate.

Rob – First thing we should do then is develop a work schedule based on our long-term recommendations. We have a guide but not sure what to tackle first. Rob tends to lean towards the engineering side of things but not sure if that should necessarily be addressed first.

Henry – Engineering has at least 3 or 4 tasks by itself and you could not have the education aspect without the enforcement aspect.

Kristen – I also think that as part of our promotion of activities we should try to get more outside people involved in the committees work.

Ann M. – Dare was the perfect opportunity for education. Not a lot of positive things to say about DARE after kid graduated. We should teach kids how to live healthy, not just tell them what to do but how to do it. Elementary Schools are another area to reach out to with their scooter city lessons where they learn traffic laws. And Delmar Dash is another opportunity for outreach.

Kristen – It's good to identify these various opportunities that already exist and take the message to them to help sell these concepts to a captive audience.

Rob – Sounds like the instructors of these programs would be the key person to reach with our messaging.

Rob – So we will develop workable tasks and bring them to the committee for comments and review.

Dan – I would like to make sure that we consolidate our successes & work that has already been done. For example, has complete streets been utilized or has planning used the network we created? Is the Town enforcing these items?

Rob – Yes. Vista is an example; the Highway Superintendent looked at plans for Vista and consistently went back to Complete Streets saying the road has to be designed to accommodate all users (bike and ped travel) making it a shared roadway. As for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Network, the Hague Blvd apts. project by the Jerico Drive-In, the Town Planner assigned to that project looked at the network and recommended/pointed out to the Planning Board that the project is on the network and a sidewalk should be added by developer (from 9w toward the Dowerskill Village). Which will now be added to the project at the developers expense.

Rob – But this is a good point and going forward we will bring any new projects that fall under these processes to the committee's attention.

Dan – Perhaps we could keep an ongoing list of these new projects so when it comes time for our annual review of the network we can reference this list.

Alan – With Vista, there will be a connection once the Rail Trail comes in from the center of the Slingerlands village all the way to Vista via bike or walking.

John – A third example of the committee’s work being implemented is Rob’s training session of the Planning Board. Now as the planning board is working on projects they now understand what has been established as policy and can review & recommend accordingly.

Oliver – Another example of integration is how two years ago the Town established itself as Climate Smart Community and this intersects itself with the Complete Streets Resolution, making our community more sustainable.

Henry – Could we try a subject matter through a sub-committee between now and the next meeting? Perhaps with the Police Department on what their response/role will be in aiding the committee’s education efforts.

Mark – I have already spoke to the Chief about assigning an officer as a liaison and it would come essentially at no cost. Scott, Oliver and Anne volunteered to accompany Mark as part of this first sub-committee meeting. Town Staff will schedule and make arrangements.

### **CDTA/CDTC 2011 Capital Region Bike Rack Program**

Jason – Last year the Town was successful in winning this grant and we were able to place bike racks at the following locations; (4) Henry Hudson Park, (2) Veterans Memorial Park, (2) Firefighters Memorial Park. A single rack in the shape of a bike was also placed in the Kenwood Ave Municipal lot.

Rob – It is crunch time though as the grant application is due by Friday. Rob gave out a map with the location of 4 bike racks around the 4 corners (inverted u racks) all with-in the Town right of way. A fifth location at Elm Avenue Park (5 bike, bike rack) will also be on the grant.

Alan- Are these racks removable because the sidewalk snowplows that go around may hit them.

Rob – They are not removable and we do not think they will be in the way of the sidewalk snow plows. They are not on the sidewalk, rather in the buffer area between the road and the sidewalk. These locations are on our bike/ped network and the locations are consistent with the streetscape improvements outlined in the Delaware Avenue Hamlet Study.

Caleb – So how many racks would the Town Get?

Rob – A total of 5 different racks (The 4 at 4-corners hold two bikes and the one at Elm Park would hold 5). The grant offers up to \$1,000. There were a variety of racks to choose, from very elaborate to more standard. The racks that we chose were standard given us the opportunity to get more for the value. This grant opportunity was also forwarded on to the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, with the hope that some local businesses would also apply.

Ann M – Delaware Plaza could use some racks, perhaps where the restaurants are located.

Oliver – Glenmont Plaza could use some as well. Spoke with the manager at Seiners about this possibility but have not heard back.

Anne – With the Delaware Ave Enhancement Study did zoning change to make businesses provide bike parking?

Rob – Not in existing code but planning board could request racks as part of the site plan.

Alan – What about racks closer towards the Delmar Reformed Church?

Rob – Part of the difficulty going east is that there is no sense of bike/ ped space and you lose a curb and sidewalk. The Delaware Enhancement Study does look to address this with some streetscape improvements, but until that is done it is probably not the best spot for racks.

### **New Business**

Jason said that as part of the agenda from now on there will be a line item for New Business. This will provide all of us an opportunity to bring up something that is relevant but may not have had a specific spot on the main agenda.

Jason announced that we will be meeting in Room 107 next month not 101.

Jason also announced that a Duathlon race is in the works. The YMCA & Parks and Recreation Department will be working together to bring this race in September 2011. Both Alan and Ann will also be volunteering with this planning initiative. More details to follow.

Rob – A couple of items that we may want to consider for our education efforts is a Public Service Announcement. Capital Coexist is developing a video/audio clip message to be run in movie theaters as a trailer. Rob asked if they would send that message to us once complete so we could post on TV 18. Even before we get these messages from Capital Coexist perhaps we could develop our own messages/slides as a Jpeg to post on TV18.

Rob also announced that the Paths committee may have an opportunity to participate in a study being conducted by the RPI Lighting Research Center & NYSDOT, regarding a Vegetation and Landscape Lighting Demonstration. This would be conducted at the roundabout at the intersection of Routes 85 and 140. Our committee would provide feedback about both the vegetation and lighting enhancements that they  
Timeline would be sometime in the spring-summer

Alan – With the warm weather coming and the anticipated opening of the Rail Trail the committee should consider what pedestrian and parking improvements could be addressed.

Dan – One issue that will directly affect the Town will be a proposal to approve a stop sign and crosswalk on Adams where it crosses with Hudson. It is an at grade crossing between the two parks. Perhaps the committee could write a letter of support for this proposal.

John S.– A traffic study will be conducted first, prior to the installation of any traffic measures. The reason why there is no current stop sign is so that cars will not be stopped on the tracks. The county will take the lead on doing this study.

Scott – Offered to put together a presentation for our next meeting regarding the Rail Trail and recommendations.

### **Public Comment**

John – There are a couple projects have recently come up at the Planning Board Meetings that relate to this committee. One is a YMCA project, and what has emerged from this project is that the YMCA has agreed to work with the Town to grant an easement in the back of their property. This would provide a link that could eventually link up with other properties. With a trail in the back of their property, there is a potential to link up with Van Dyke Road.

Wemple Road Soccer Plex is another project that is on the radar. Traffic has been an issue, specifically on Saturday mornings. Currently, there are no bike/ped facilities connecting to the soccer plex. With their goal to develop more fields off Wemple, an opportunity to consider both bicycle and pedestrian connections should be something on the committee's radar.

**Adjourned at 8:30 PM**