

**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem  
Meeting Summary  
January 26, 2010  
Town Hall Room 101**

Present: Kathy McCarty, Henry Peyrebrune, Julie Sasso, Caleb Wistar, Dan Lewis, Ann Benware, Mark Jordan, Steve Downs  
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Jason Gallo, Rob Leslie, Erik Deyoe

**Comments on November Meeting Summary**

Dan pointed out that the previous meeting summary comments should have been dated October, not November. No other comments.

**Bike Expo, Saturday May 8, 2010 – Committee Involvement/Responsibilities**

Jason asked by a show of hands (not a formal commitment) who anticipated being available for the event on Saturday, May 8 from 9am-1pm, and all present thought they would be able to participate. Preliminary Committee responsibilities would be to have an informational table where we could inform the community about our goals and accomplishments, distribute educational materials (to be determined) and solicit feedback from the public. We would also take on a more active participation role by facilitating 4 bicycle skill stations, as a pre cursor to the actual rodeo. Scott has offered to train committee members on how to instruct and implement these skill stations successfully. This training would be conducted closer to the event.

Stakeholders that are either participating or have been invited to participate include:

- CDTC - through their Capital Coexist bicycle education program. CDTC will be stationed next to a CDTA bus affixed with a bike rack and CDTC sponsored bicycle safety awareness message.
- Bethlehem Police Department – Facilitating bike sales and inspections
- Town Clerk – Registration Table & collection of Bike Sales Money
- Dan was going to speak with FORT about having a Table
- Healthy Kids Committee – Provide volunteers
- Mohawk Hudson Cycling Club – Volunteers for rodeo instruction
- Mad Dog Bikes – Potentially provide gifts to raffle off

Other ideas pertaining to the event included:

- Tie in the Town's status as a climate smart community as a result of the Town's April 2009 resolution
- The sale of flashers/vests
- Contact the Soccer Club and have them inform the many teams that will be coming to the park that day for soccer games to bring their bikes.

## Revisit Corridors Map – Take a Closer Look in Regards to Bicycles

Rob explained that after taking a look at our Pedestrian/Bicycle network map (from our *Identify Gaps in the Network* exercise in September 2009) we may have missed identifying some roadways as they relate to the cyclist. The Committee revisited the map with a focus on bicycle connectivity. Rob informed the members to consider the different levels of cyclists (Class A, B & C) during the review the Town roadways. He discussed an example of the City of Albany Bicycle Master Plan in which major roadways and neighborhood routes were identified. Steve inquired about receiving a copy of the Albany Bicycle Master Plan. It was decided that the Plan would be posted on the Committees message forum.

The Committee reviewed an aerial map of the Town that illustrated destination locations such as hamlet zoning districts, and recreation, educational, and conservation areas. Members identified adjacent communities (such as the City of Albany for work trips) as destinations too. Kathy noted parking lots tend to be a destination as well, especially for younger bike riders. The bike routes/roadways to be identified were based on achieving connections to these destinations. This exercise was conducted with the assistance of Oliver Holmes, President of the Mohawk Hudson Cycling Club. Oliver provided his experiences and expertise as an avid bicyclist. The Committee identified two types of roadways; those that would typically be utilized by commuter cyclists and those utilized by recreational cyclists (i.e. southwestern part of Town).

### Commuter Cyclist

- Albany Rail Trail
- Elsmere Ave.
- Delaware Ave.
- River Road
- Feura Bush Road
- Murray Ave.
- Fisher Blvd.
- New Scotland Ave
- Rt. 9W (if Improved)
- Creble Road
- Kenwood Ave
- Elm Ave.
- NYS Rt. 396
- Russell Rd.
- Font Grove Rd.
- Elm Ave East
- Blessing rd.
- Slingerlands Bypass
- Delmar Bypass (32)
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The roadways identified as routes for commuter cyclists illustrate those that are either characterized as arterials or collectors.

### Recreational Cyclist

- Game Farm Road
- Waldenmaier Road
- Meads Lane
- Wemple/Weisheit/Clapper Roads  
(between Rt9W and River Road)
- South Albany Road
- Ben's Bridge (for now)
- Beaver Dam Road
- Rockefeller Road

Neighborhood roads, such as Adams Place, that experience low traffic volume and low vehicle speeds tend to be utilized by Class B & C riders, children, students and adults. Their riding experience is safe due to the low vehicle volume and speeds. It was suggested that these low traffic volume, low vehicle speed roads may either receive treatment for facilities and signage or are most likely sufficient without any treatment. The major commuter and recreational cycling routes should receive facility treatment.

Henry mentioned that one of the projects that the Bethlehem Citizens for Pedestrian Safety Committee implemented was the signage of a recreational bike route in the Delmar area (Adams Place/ Winnie Road). The Pedestrian Safety Committee developed a bike route map that including historical landmarks, which was not published. Henry and Town staff will see if they have copies of the map.

Henry identified Rockefeller Road, which connects to the bridge across the Normans Kill. This bridge could provide a connection between Normansville (Stevens Farm) and the Albany Rail Trail.

Eric stated that since Kenwood Avenue (NYS Route 140) is in poor condition (pavement and bad drainage) we may want to discourage this road as a bicycle route of choice. The Albany Rail Trail may serve as a viable alternative. In 2002, NYSDOT prepared draft plans for the rehabilitation of Kenwood Avenue (NYS Route 140), which included travel land and shoulder improvements, sidewalks and amenities. The project was not implemented and is no longer considered an active project.

Steve asked if criteria exist that outlines criteria for determining if a road is safe for bicyclists. Rob stated that the Federal Highway Administration developed a manual to assist in selecting roadway design treatments to accommodate bicyclists. The treatments in the manual area based on speed, type of roadway and average annual daily traffic experienced on the project roadway. The manual is a good starting point for determining design treatments, but it does not identify a roadway as safe or unsafe. Steve suggested the Committee examine how accommodating the Town roadways are within the context of the FHWA guidelines, similar to an existing conditions analysis.

Oliver Holmes informed the Committee about legislation at the State level, known as the “3-foot rule”. Simply stated, when a motorist passes a bicyclist they must provide at least 3 feet of space. The New York Bicycling Coalition is strongly lobbying for this new law to the Vehicle and Traffic Law. Oliver also mentioned that there are five members of MHCC that are League of American Bicyclist certified instructors for bicycle safety and they may be able to participate in the Town’s Bike Rodeo event.

Dan announced that Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy is organizing an event scheduled for Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> that would piggy back the American Hiking Associations, National Trails Day. The promotion of MHLC sites would be a central focus. Dan is still in the preliminary organization stages for this Town wide event and is looking for other constituents to be involved and help promote. More details will follow as planning continues.

**Criteria Development – Confirm (3) Revised Descriptions**

This was tabled until the February meeting.

**Public Comment**

Cindy Ferrari is looking to form a group to promote the soon to be constructed sidewalks on Orchard St., which were funded by the Safe Routes to Schools Grant.