

**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem  
Meeting Summary  
June 28, 2011**

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

**Comments on June Meeting Summary**

Caleb confirmed that he distributed the Safety Tips Palm Cards to the Bethlehem Children's School. No other comments.

**Update on Mohawk Hudson Cycling Club Mini Grant**

It has been confirmed by the president of MHCC, Oliver Holmes that the Committee was successful in our mini grant application and will be awarded \$200. This will be acknowledged at the next Town Board meeting (7/13) at which time the committee will then be able to make the purchase of card holders, which will be attached to the previous identified bike racks in Town.

**Discuss Role of School District with Regards to Outreach Ideas and Participation**

Committee members offered the following suggestions regarding outreach ideas and participation:

- Invite the Superintendent to a Paths meeting or schedule an informal first meeting
- Have a succinct plan and an agenda with action items to bring to the table for meeting
- Create a contest at Middle school age level
  - Tie into the scooter city curriculum at the elementary level
  - Target the High School Drivers Ed. Program at the High School Level
- Reach parents and kids at the welcome back dessert
- Get input from the School Administrators on which of the "E's" they are currently targeting, could be targeting and how.
- Engage the Healthy Kids Committee and have them spearhead initiatives like a Walking School Bus
- Engage the Schools "Green Team"
- Create a map for the School District that displays safe routes that can be traveled as a student/pedestrian to all the schools
- Initiate a safety program for 10-14 year olds
- Create a High School Bicycle Club
- Tie Bike and Ped. education into the Dare officers curriculum
- Engage all the schools and districts that are within the Town, not just BC
- Create a workshop with the proper representatives from the School District
  - Perhaps an informal meeting would be a better start to this
  - Write a letter to each school and ask how this could possibly be implemented
  - Contact Dr. Tebbano and have an informal meeting where we introduce the committee and our work and our goal of engaging the District's assistance. Those who offered to sit in on this informal meeting (separate from our regular committee meetings) are: Scott, Anne M., Alan, Oliver and Henry.
- Follow up with Supervisor Messina regarding the current Superintendent search and what questions are being asked. Perhaps Bike and Ped. questions/issues could be incorporated.

## Pathway Funding Options Follow-Up

### - **Maintenance of Existing Facilities – Responsibilities/Example Municipal Practices**

Rob stated that Henry prepared a report on sidewalk maintenance programs of other municipalities across the country. For reference purposes, Bethlehem uses an evaluation system for its roadways developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Transportation Center, known as the Pavement Surface Evaluating and Rating (PASER) Asphalt Roads Manual. The system uses a visual observation of the pavement with a series of photos showing different distresses in the pavement. Based on the severity and extent of the distresses, pavements are rated on a scale of 10- Excellent to 1- failed, needs total reconstruction. Regarding sidewalk evaluations, the municipalities of St. Peters, Missouri and Iowa City, Iowa utilize a visual inspection and rating of sidewalks from 1 to 10, as well as images of 10 defect types.

The Committee suggested the development of a sidewalk evaluation system modeled after St. Peters and Iowa City. The Town would have to modify the evaluation to reflect the various surface types in Bethlehem, including concrete and asphalt. Henry's report suggests the following process:

1. Develop a GIS-based sidewalk network inventory database
2. Agree on the types of distresses/defect to measure
3. Design the information system to collect and receive this information as well as citizen observations/complaints.
4. Conduct the survey of conditions
5. Prioritize the maintenance needs (utilize the Town's Priority Network).

### - **Summer/Fall 2011 Sidewalk Maintenance Project**

Rob stated that he spoke with the Town Highway Superintendent regarding maintenance of existing sidewalks in the Town. The Superintendent indicated there may be an opportunity to fund a sidewalk maintenance project this year. The Committee suggested the sidewalk along Kenwood Avenue and Delaware Avenue from Adams Street to Cherry Avenue. Henry stated the sidewalk in front of the Delmar Fire Station (along Delaware Avenue) has a depression that creates a pond during wet weather (rain/snow) forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. Rob indicated these suggestions would be passed along to the Highway Superintendent.

## Update on CDTA Albany County Route Restructuring Plan

Rob mentioned he attended a meeting with CDTA and representatives from the Towns of Colonie and Guilderland to discuss the bus route changes for Albany County, and specifically the suburban Towns. This was a follow-up to CDTA's presentation to the Committee at its January meeting. Rob identified the following changes to routes in Bethlehem:

- Route 18 changed from a "Neighborhood Route" to a "Trunk Route"
- Termination of a portion of Route 18 service along Elsmere Ave and Kenwood Ave. Passengers that utilized stops along Kenwood Avenue and Elsmere Avenue will now have to walk a ¼ mile to/from bus stops on Delaware Avenue and Cherry Avenue.
- Extend Route 18 service along Cherry Ave to the Price Chopper Plaza in Slingerlands (providing access to the shopping plaza and an opportunity for transfer to Route 13 along New Scotland Road into Albany.)
- Route 7 changed from a "Neighborhood Route" to a "Trunk Route"
- All trunk routes operate the same pattern every trip (no deviations), with late evening service (until midnight), and operate seven days a week (addition of Sunday service).
- All trunk routes will operate at between a 15 – 30 minute frequency in the mid-day and the majority will operate at a 10-20 minute frequency in the peak (6am-9am and 3pm-6pm).
- Route 8 service removed completely.
- Route 8 and Route 7 service removed from Corning Hill Road (no destinations on Corning Hill Road).

- Route 13 mid-day direct service to front door of Slingerlands Medical Center will terminate. CDTA will build bus shelter along sidewalk (southern side – east bound direction) on New Scotland Road in front of Slingerlands Medical Center. No stop on northern side (west bound direction) of New Scotland Road. Passengers will have to remain on bus to circulate around Price Chopper Plaza
- Route 13 and Route 18 both connect to Route 114 for passenger transfer, which provides service to Rensselaer Train Station
- Route 18 now provides later night service (until midnight)
- Route 18 now extended to connect with Route 13 at Price Chopper Plaza
- Route 18 more consistent (less confusing) routing (i.e. same stop location/same time)
- Route 18 now a trunk route so increase frequency of stops during peak hours and during mid-day
- Route 18 and 13 now have easier (1 transfer) connection to Rensselaer Train Station

#### Next Steps

- CDTA to hold public meetings (in open house format) in mid July from 4pm-8pm to present route changes
- Bethlehem residents who work in City of Albany can attend meeting before traveling home
- Meeting location to be Albany Public Library, easily accessible via bus

#### **New Business**

Jason announced that the Committee will meet in August (August 23).

Jason also announced that the police resource officers have completed their training on bicycle patrolling and are traveling around Town on bicycle patrol.

Alan asked about the possibility of having signs posted on the rail trail “pick up after your dog” and about “deer ticks”. Scott and Dan, representing FORT, indicated they will look into this.

Henry asked about having the crosswalk on Elm Avenue at Westchester Woods indentified as one of the target areas for enforcement by the Police (re: yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk). Jason said he would contact the Police department as a follow up regarding the dissemination of the safety tip palm cards and ask about that specific location for target enforcement of vehicles yielding to pedestrians.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Adjourn**

8:30