



**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem
Meeting Summary
March 27, 2012**

Present: Scott Lewendon, Dan Lewis, Alan Via, Anne Benware, Ann Mullaly,
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Rob Leslie, Brian Kise
VHB Staff: Kim Lundgren
School District Staff: Fred Powers

Comments on January Meeting Summary

No comments were provided. The January meeting summary will be posted to the Town website. Rob announced that he and Jason presented at the annual NYS Recreation and Park Society conference in the morning. Rob and Jason presented on Complete Streets and how new State legislation and the complete streets movement will impact parks and recreation department professionals.

Rob announced that Kathy McCarthy is no longer able to commit the volunteer time to the PaTHs Committee and has resigned from the Committee. The Town is soliciting interest from Town residents who are interested in serving on the Committee and filling the existing three vacancies. The Committee felt it would be beneficial to have a new member that also volunteers in a school PTO.

Discuss and Share Outcome/Results of the March 12, 2012 Public Meeting – Sustainable Bethlehem and Bicycle/Pedestrian Initiative (VHB Task 6.b.iv)

Kim Lundgren from VHB reviewed the results of the keypad polling bicycle and pedestrian mobility questions that were provided during the Sustainable Bethlehem Community Workshop. Results of the questions can be found on the PaTHs Committee webpage:

<http://www.townofbethlehem.org/pages/AdvisoryComs/advPaTHs.asp>. VHB provided the Town with the raw comments from each of the small groups discussions, which occurred at the workshop. VHB also provided a summary document of comments categorized by the Committee's goals: Engineering, Education & Enforcement, and Engagement and Encouragement. Next steps for the Committee include reviewing the summary document and based on the comments provided establish tasks and performance measures associated with each of the goals. It is anticipated that this would be conducted during the Committee's summer/fall meetings.

Committee members identified the following activities/items that they felt should be address or discussed in the future:

- Prior to the Bike Expo on May 5, the Committee should have a solid stance on children riding their bicycle on the sidewalk. In this manner, a common message could be provided to parents and children who participate in the Bike Expo.
- With the BCSD discussing increasing the bussing distance for students traveling to school, taking advantage of the CDTA bus routes may help if bussing changes are made. Additionally, providing more sidewalks on the roadways that are used to access schools could help students walking to school.
- The Committee should establish a Facebook page to better connect with other organizations and parents/residents. Rob would look into this option and discuss with the Town Supervisor. Ann Mullaly volunteered to setup and run/monitor the Facebook page. Members thought this would be a useful tool to advertise the Committee and bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the Town.
- A Cyclovia, or Car Free Event Saturday/Sunday may help to bring attention to bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

Review of PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Events/Schedule (VHB Task 6.b.ii)

VHB reviewed the events/schedule spreadsheet with the Committee. The events/schedule provides a list of local, regional, and national events and environmental holidays that occur throughout the year. The purpose of the schedule list is to provide the PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee with a menu of options for events and activities the Committee may consider partnering with or otherwise becoming involved with in order to further execute the Committee's mission and goals. VHB also prepared a May Bike Month Implementation Guide. The Guide outlines events and outreach strategies the Town of Bethlehem can use to increase participation and awareness about National Bike Month. It also provides guidance on recruiting volunteers and businesses to sponsor events and has an implementation schedule the Town can use as an event planning tool. Although the Guide addresses Bike Month activities, the process and tools provided in the Guide can be followed for any bicycle or pedestrian event the Town takes on.

Confirm May Bike Month Activities and Responsibilities

Rob announced the following:

- Bill Van Alstyne, local resident and Program Director of the Albany County DPW Traffic Safety Education Programs, will conduct an assembly at Hamagrael Elementary School on May 9, 2012, which is Bike to School Day.
- The proposed Earth Day Fair at Slingerlands Elementary School was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts at the School.
- The Town's Bike Expo is scheduled for Saturday, May 5 from 10AM to 1PM at the Elm Avenue Town Park. The Expo will consist of the same traffic skills stations that were conducted at the 2010 Bike Expo. Jason is looking to setup a mock roadway ride through the Park using the park roads. Participants would ride through the mock roadway following completion of the traffic skills stations. Jason envisioned conducting an on-road bike ride on the Delmar Bicycle Route with the assistance of the Town Police Department, but this plan was not pursued after liability concerns were raised. Jason will be soliciting interest from the Committee members to assist with the traffic skills stations at the Bike Expo. He will distribute the skill stations manuals to member via email and the April Committee meeting will be devoted to the Bike Expo activities.
- Rob announced that the PaTHs Committee received a letter from the Albany Bicycle Coalition (ABC) regarding an invitation to participate in ABC's Bike Expo scheduled for Sunday May 6, 2012 at Washington Park in the City of Albany.

New Business

Dan announced on Saturday April 14, Town Historian Susan Leath and naturalist Miles Garfinkel will lead a hike along the open (1.9 mile) section of the Albany County Rail Trail from the Slingerlands Fireman's Park to the Bethlehem Veterans Park in Delmar and discuss items of interest along the way.

Public Comment

No members of the public present.

Adjourn

8:30PM