

***PaTHs 4 Bethlehem
Meeting Summary
May 26, 2009
Town Hall Room 101***

Present: Scott Lewendon, Henry Peyrebrune, Julie Sasso, Caleb Wistar, Steve Downs, Dan Lewis
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Jason Gallo, Rob Leslie, Erik Deyoe
Guest: Supervisor Jack Cunningham

Comments on April Meeting Summary

Dan Lewis noted that he was in attendance last meeting

Henry complimented the Town regarding some of the rehab projects along Delaware & Kenwood Avenue completed by the Highway Department

Confirmation that Clifton Park sub-trails committee will come to speak with our committee during the July meeting.

Review Draft Committee Schedule

Jason G. presented a draft committee schedule to the Committee. The Committee schedule is intended to identify future Committee agenda items, and outline an approach to develop criteria that could be used to evaluate pedestrian and bicycle facility locations.

Steve D. wanted us to add the dates to the draft committee schedule calendar.

Julie asked about the Safe Routes to School survey that was distributed by the Slingerlands school. Info regarding this survey will be provided at a future meeting

Dan asked about communities that are similar to ours that we could model and it was suggested by Rob L. that Altamont may be a good example since they have drafted and adopted a Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Scott L. suggested for the month of September when we wish to discuss safety issues to invite Lois Chaplin as a guest. Lois Chaplin runs the Cornell Local Roads Program, which promotes bicycle and pedestrian accessibility. Henry P. suggested inviting Tim Bebe from the Town Police Department to discuss traffic laws and Rob L. suggested inviting a representative from the New York Bicycling Coalition.

Caleb asked about where the public would come in with the development of criteria. And would we be issuing some type of report to the Town Board about our criteria findings. **A** – Yes we do see a report being developed and submitted to the Town Board. We will look into the timing of having a public forum, perhaps during a Town Board meeting for comments on the criteria development.

Henry P. asked: Do you see the end product of this committee as criteria development or more comprehensive like education, enforcement etc. **A** – While the development of criteria is one of the end games of this committee an overall comprehensive approach will be pursued as this group continues to meet post criteria development.

Rob L. stated that the Town Engineering Department will use the services of a summer intern to map the location of sidewalks in the Town and document current sidewalk conditions.

Henry mentioned that if you look at best practices of places around the country, a comprehensive approach based on the design and interaction of land uses and pedestrian and bicycle facilities, creates a sustainable walk-able community. He hopes that our committee is able to achieve this.

Rob stated that the 2005 Comprehensive Plan goals and recommendations and the 2006 Zoning Law have provided a good start and working foundation for creating a walk-able community.

Caleb asked about the status of the Delaware Avenue Hamlet Enhancement Study. He suggested the Committee could receive an update regarding the recommendations being made so the Paths 4 Bethlehem Committee can make its recommendations in accordance with the Study.

Rob L. said it would probably be in July when this information would be ready to share with our group.

20/20 Committee Survey Results – Bicycle and Pedestrian Question

Handout was provided. The Community Survey distributed by the Bethlehem 20/20 Committee included a question regarding the Town making improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists. Results included the following:

- 56% responded improvements were important
- When all services are ranked, bicycle/pedestrian services ranking in the middle

Conclusion of survey question was that pedestrian and bicycle facilities are important but not critical when compared to improving other elements of the Town's infrastructure. However, when asked how pedestrian and bicycle services compared to expectations, it received the highest percentage of all the services for below expectations response.

Destination Identification Exercise

Using an aerial map of the Town, the Committee identified destinations that residents desire to travel to and from. These destinations included parks, schools, community centers, commercial areas, hamlet centers, conservation/recreation lands, etc. The Committee then placed a half-mile radius around each destination to illustrate the distance that a pedestrian is willing to travel. (A half-mile distance is the average walking trip for a pedestrian). The Committee also identified major travel routes in the Town that access destinations in neighboring communities (i.e. employment centers in City of Albany via Delaware Avenue). The exercise revealed several roadway corridors in the Town (such as Delaware Avenue, Kenwood Avenue, New Scotland Road, Feura Bush Road) that connect the destinations to each other and the Town's neighborhoods. (See handout of all locations identified by the committee.)

Public Comment

Adjourn