

**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem  
Meeting Summary  
November 29, 2011**

Present: Henry Peyrebrune, Ann Mullaly, Scott Lewendon, Anne Benware, Oliver Holmes, Dan Lewis, Alan Via, Kathy McCarthy  
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Rob Leslie, Jason Gallo, Gregg Sagendorph, Brian Kise  
VHB Staff: Bill Desantis, Kim Lundgren  
School District Staff: Jody Monroe

**Comments on October Meeting Summary**

No Comments .

**Engaging Community Partners (VHB Task 6.b.iv)**

Jason updated the committee regarding their invitation to present at the BCSD Administrative Council meeting on Wednesday, October 26. Present from the PaTHs committee were Henry, Scott, Ann M., Rob & Jason as well as Keith Forbes from VHB and Detective Mike Whitley. We shared with the council our past successes, current initiatives and the identified gap we have in trying reach the youth of our community relating to bicycle and pedestrian information and education. The Administrative Council expressed support of our efforts and identified two School District personnel who will now serve as liaisons to the Paths committee; Jody Monroe (Assistant Superintendent) and Fred Powers (P.E. Supervisor). Jody was introduced to the Paths Committee and acknowledged Fred Powers who was unable to attend due to another meeting commitment.

Rob updated the committee about his and Jason's invitation from Mike Klugman (Middle School Principle) to present the Paths committee initiatives at a BCSD Green Team meeting on Wednesday, November 2. The Green Team is comprised of staff from across the school district that is "committed to taking a proactive role in promoting, facilitating and accepting environmental leadership in all facets of our organization". Similar information that was shared with the Administrative Council was reiterated to the Green Team. During the discussion of how to best reach youth with our message(s) the opportunity to participate at the Slingerlands Earth Day Fair was offered to the Paths Committee.

Jason and Rob have tasked the committee with choosing which future programming opportunity they would like to participate with; 1) Slingerlands Earth Day Fair (April 26) **OR** 2) Bike Month/Week, Bike to School Day (**May**). It is envisioned that subcommittees for each event would be established to help facilitate the coordination needed to program activities.

Potential programming ideas from Committee:

- Coordinate with Healthy Kids Committee
- Introduce a Community Walk Day
- Have PaTHs Committee sponsor first bike ride on future bike pilot project
- Bike to work day – Oliver may be able to have MHCC members lead these rides
- Bike to School Day
  - a) Facilitate through School District Liaisons
  - b) Coordinate in conjunction with PE Staff Elementary bicycle safety education
  - c) Explore Bike Clubs as a possibility for an afterschool Club
  - d) Don't forget to include St. Thomas and Becker as part of these opportunities
- Bicycle Helmet Give-a-ways
- Coordinate a Bethlehem Bike Rescue

## **Bike Pilot Project (VHB Task 7)**

### **Update on first bike pilot – Review Signing Plan**

The Committee reviewed the route which runs along Delmar Place, Winnie Road, McGuffey Lane, Parkwyn Drive, Murray Avenue, Axbridge Lane, Elm Avenue and Delmar Bypass Extension. The Committee discussed the connection to the Delmar Bypass Extension and whether or not to include shared lane markings on the road or direct bicyclists to the existing shared use path. There was discussion that the shared lane markings may create some confusion when placed on a roadway that already has a shared use path. Would signs be directed to bicyclists on the road or bicyclists on the shared use path? The preferred user of the bike route is Class B/C bicyclist who would be more comfortable and likely to use the shared use path. Town Staff and VHB will make a determination regarding the bicycle connection to the Delmar Bypass extension.

### **Discussion of second bike pilot – Update on discussion with NYSDOT Region 1**

Rob - The Town has been unsuccessful in scheduling a meeting with NYSDOT Region 1 to discuss the process of installing shared land markings along Delaware Avenue. The Town has responded to NYSDOT Region 1 request for a meeting agenda and list of attendees prior to scheduling a meeting date. The Town desires to receive NYSDOT Region 1 feedback on this proposal prior to establishing Delaware Avenue from Van Dyke Road to Elsmere Avenue as the second bike pilot route.

### **Review of walk/bike application assignments and deadlines**

- **League of American Bicyclists - Bicycle Friendly Community Application**
- **Walk Friendly Communities - Community Assessment Tool**

Jason – The Walk Friendly Community application is now due 1/16, which gives us an extra month. At this time we still need to collect some of the assigned pages from committee members. If you are not submitting it today please confirm your ability to do so. Also, at the end of each application is a question that asks for 3 reasons why you feel your community should be a walk/bicycle friendly community. We would like everyone to answer this last part, giving us an opportunity to use and select the best possible answers. Jason will send out a reminder email to complete this last part of the application.

Dan – Based on the application I am not sure we would deserve the distinction of a walk friendly community. That said should we submit this?

Rob – If we submit and are not deemed walk friendly, as long as we get a punch list of weaknesses and strengths it would be worth our time to complete and submit.

Anne – At the very least it would give a base line of where we are now as a community and build off of that.

Bill – You would receive some very specific information to help improve your status. The status earned is good for 3 or so years and to maintain that status you would need to reapply.

Anne – Is there a fee to apply.

Bill – No.

### **New Business**

Alan – The waterline is a great walking resource, if we could get the City of Albany to allow users, it would be a safe place to get across Town. Not sure if this committee has considered this as an option. Is it worth speaking with the City of Albany?

Rob – 9/11 brought up a whole new safety concern regarding these types of facilities and has been off limits but the first step would be to speak with the new Town Supervisor about pursuing this.

Dan – This brings up the important point, for PaTHs to continue to look at linkages that would be easy to make without having to use highways.

Henry – Jim Booker provided a report on linkages to the committee a few years back.

Jason – Part of the reason for the success of this committee has been our sole focus on Town right of way.

Rob – I agree, I don't want to lose momentum with this committee by getting into private property concerns. When we started this committee that was why our focus was on Town right away.

Scott – Once we get the Rail Trail open perhaps accessing the waterline is an initiative for FORT to take on.

Dan – When projects come across the Planning Board, providing linkages should be assessed along with bike and pedestrian facilities. This also brings up the point that was discussed by John Smolinsky at the last meeting about potentially having a Planning Board member fill the committee's vacant seat.

Jason – Rob and I will be presenting at the next PTO meeting (Presidents of all the groups/clubs from all BCSD schools) if anyone interested in attending please respond and confirm tom my email that I will be sending out later this week.

Jason – All the card holders for our Safety Tip Palm Cards that we put up around the 4 corners are currently down, but we were able to recover all of them. One of them is completely broken. Not sure if we want to consider a different use of the funds that were awarded to us from MHCC.

Anne – Could we use the money for supplies or a banner?

Scott – Before we buy a banner I have Henry’s old committee’s banner that we may be able to reuse.

Rob – At the next Town Board meeting I will be giving the Town Board a year end review of the tasks that we have completed and a current status update. If you can attend to show support that would be great.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjourn**

**8:27 p.m.**