

**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem
Meeting Summary
September 28, 2010**

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

Comments on July Meeting Summary

Caleb pointed out that the meeting did not take place in the Town Hall Auditorium. No other comments on the meeting summary. The July meeting summary will be posted to the Committee website.

Bike Expo Comments & Review

Jason thanked everyone for their participation and reported that he received a number of positive comments from participants throughout the day. Some ideas going forward regarding the event included; changing the time of the event to later in the day to avoid soccer club schedule conflicts, market the event through other town groups and organizations like the boy scouts and farmers market, build upon the *what to teach your children* portion by incorporating a what to teach the parents component, offer the Bike Expo on an annual basis versus a bi-annual basis, if trying to get middle school age kids maybe try to tie the event in with another event/activity to draw them out.

Some statics from the Bike Expo:

Total bikes sold – 28 for a total of \$275. Unsold bikes will either be salvaged and/or recycled.

Total bike registrations with the Town – 67 for a total collection of \$16.75.

Bike Rodeo participants - 55

August 25 Town Board Meeting Committee Presentation Review

-Town Board Comments: The consensus of the Town Board was positive and they were pleased with the committee's work. The Town Board took action on our short term goals and tasked the committee to hold a public meeting and develop a resolution to establish the committee as a standing committee.

October 6 Public Meeting – Presentation of Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network & Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment Guide

The goal of the meeting is to get the public to comment on the priority network map. Based on how many residents come, there are few options that can be used to keep the total number of participants at a given station manageable, ideally 12-15 per group (3 or 4 stations). The total number of groups would be determined based on attendance.

It is anticipated that a number of local roads will be identified so it is important the committee reiterate the Complete Streets resolution and the concept that local roads which reflect low vehicle speed and or volume can safely and efficiently accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Henry pointed out that the Town Board would be looking for comments on both the network and the evaluation process so we should consider giving the evaluation process its own station. As such, when we report back to the board we will be able to provide comments on both the evaluation process and the priority network . Committee comments included:

Julie –A station to present the evaluation process should be included.

Scott – Concentrate on presenting and receiving comments on the overall evaluation process.

Henry – Public could comment on the factors (criteria) of the evaluation process.

Scott - Present examples of types of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations that could be implemented.

Make the presentation more visionary versus more technical.

Methods of advertisement – Emails, Spotlight, Library, Public Access Channel, E Newsletter, School District Web site, capital Co-exist.

Scott – proposed the stations to be operated as a café style, open house. The committee would still facilitate discussion of the map and record comments. Two committee members to be assigned per station, one to facilitate the discussion on the map the other to serve as a recorder.

Dan – The evaluation process itself is a form of education as there are factors/criteria in the evaluation that some people may not have considered during the prioritization of pathway investment.

Anne – Have a general comment box that the public could leave for the committee. Also emphasize that the work the committee has conducted will better position the Town when funds are available.

Any recommendations made at the public meeting will be brought before the committee for review at the October 26th meeting. By early December present a final draft of the network map and evaluation process to the Town Board, for their consideration.

NYSERDA Grant – Bicycle/Pedestrian Potential Programmatic Funding

Eric applied for a grant through stimulus funds for energy management activities and was awarded the grant. However, it was determined after the grant was awarded that energy audits would not be permissible. So Eric & Rob re-scoped the language and tailored it towards a bike & ped program, which still fits within NYSERDA's sustainability goals. A pilot project was included for signage but the parameters of the grant would not permit infrastructure type projects. So the direction is now geared towards programmatic education and the associated administration. Eric emphasized that whatever is eventually created and established that the program be sustainable for years to come. It is envisioned that the committee would help work out some of the details of this future bike/pedestrian program.

Public Comment:

- Sightlines along the local roads do not lend themselves to safe riding due to the vegetation over-growth. A review of this over growth should be considered.
- Take into account the Sr. population and diversity in the planning of new facilities
- Consider a bike rodeo for adults and seniors
- Make facilities and paths accessible.
- Mark re-paved areas that have lips for accessibility.
- Some of the crowned roads are too steep for bike riding.
- Use the criteria in the evaluation for new pathway investment guide during review of the public's recommendations for new roads to be added to the priority network.

Adjourned at 8:07 PM.