

Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
Meeting Minutes
Feb 26, 2018

PRESENT:

David Brownstein	Donna Bruschi	Mark Eis	Dan Lipson (interim chair)
Judy Mage	Bill Murray	Steve O'Shea	Matt Pilek
Michael Reade	Will Sweeney		

AGENDA:

1. Bill Murray: should we request **Share the Road signs along Henry W. Du Bois?**
2. Justin Myers resigned from committee because he will be relocating to California.

3. 3-foot passing lane statewide legislation:

Report on our work on the 3-foot law: we had 1,000 signatures. We met with Kevin Cahill in early January. Assembly Bill 02485. Cahill signed on as a cosponsor. Bill remains stuck in the Assembly Transportation Committee. David Gantt is the Chair of the Transportation Committee. Gantt has some substantive concerns that are holding up the vote on this bill. Gantt's letter in response was "skimpy." Steve O'Shea will call Gantt's legislative director. Steve will write Phil Steck, who is the sponsor of this bill.

We should ask the state organization to get people calling him. We should get in touch with Tom Polk (head of NYS Bicycle Coalition) asking them to target Gantt. Steve is sure Bicycle Coalition is targeting Gantt. Bill Murray: we should initiate a letter-writing campaign.

Skartatos (Poughkeepsie, Newburgh) is on the Committee. He should be sent letters.

4. Planning a Spring group bike ride:

Donna and Mark: let's take a ride on the rail-trail (in the Fall it was to Yard Owl) on Sat April 14 | do it on the weekend, around 10am. Tony Williams Park | storm date of Sun Apr 15.

This will just be a small ride for Bike/Ped Committee members. There will be a larger community ride for earth week organized by the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association (WVRTA).

5. Planning a meeting with the Department of Transportation:

Judy: we have 1,000 petition signatures. If the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) officials won't meet with us, we can send a delegation to DOT to deliver the signatures. Pressure DOT on making the roads safer, including Expect a Bike signs. Michael Reade's idea was to go above the regional director's head and ask to meet with the state manager in Albany. The ask would be for more cooperation. Agenda for DOT:

1. Widening 299 from Butternut to 44/55. Hein promised this, but it is being delayed.
2. More crosswalks on Main Street.
3. 208 desperately needs to be safer.
4. Zero Place: DOT denied request for parking on the outside of the bike lane
5. Bridge by Stewarts
6. Lower the speed limit on 299.
7. DOT should be calling bike lane on 32N and plowing the bike lane.
8. 32S: improve bikeability

9. Mohonk Preserve Gateway parking lot warrants dropping the speed limit | ask the Preserve to work with us. Perhaps a letter of support from the Preserve.
10. Michael: what has DOT done budget-wise since it designated thousands of miles as bike routes to make biking safe on these bike byways?

Michael and Mark can draft a letter to the DOT. We should pass this on to Gail Gallerie at TIC and see what she would like to accomplish.

6. Village Board interest in improving Rail Trail:

Bill Murray: hope is to line up county money to improve this linear park. Highland rail trail did it properly. New Paltz used leftover blacktop.

David Brownstein: Dennis Doyle likes the idea of this linear park.

Donna: agenda item for future meeting: we should brainstorm what we would want the village to do with rail trail improvements. E.g. Mark Eis: we should pave it in the village.

7. Report from Ulster County meeting regarding Empire Trail connecting Hudson Valley Rail Trail with Wallkill Valley Rail Trail:

Michael Reade: **DOT will be holding a series of public meetings** about road conditions connecting Hudson Valley Rail Trail to Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. Big question is how to get to Henry W. Dubois from the thruway overpass. It will go by the College Diner, then will cross to north side of 299/Main. Trail could go behind CVS. CVS was offering having shelters and restrooms.

The one by Ohioville will be separate two lanes. Pedestrians would head to Putt Corners via sidewalks. The plan is to expand the width for bike/ped over the thruway overpass.

Putt Corners is a local road, so the town needs to have input on it. DOT has to come to us. We should insert ourselves – ask DOT to come to us first (or we meet in Poughkeepsie with them). We should unite with Tim and Neil and make our pitch. David: we need to decide on what our key issues will be. One priority is crosswalks by Rite Aid. Bill: we will be more successful if we can focus our wish list in a way that fits nicely that DOT wants to do. Make it collaborative.

Rose Quinn will move back to New Paltz from Kingston and would like to start up Bike Friendly New Paltz.

David mentioned there is discussion of possibly having a southbound automobile entrance to the thruway from New Paltz to relieve traffic.

Adjourned 8:47pm

NEXT MEETING:

Monday March 26, 2018

FOLLOWING MEETING:

Tuesday April 24, 2018: Joint meeting with Transportation Implementation Committee (TIC)