

New Paltz Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
Minutes: April 18, 2016 * Village Hall * 7:00—9:00 p.m.

Present: Peter Kaufman, Judy Mage, Rebecca Minas, Justin Myers, Pamela St. John

Guests: Joe Lingeman, Mark Eis

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Acceptance of March 28, 2016 minutes

There was one motion made at this meeting to endorse the following statement and have it read at the Town Board meeting on April 21, 2016:

We call on the New Paltz Town Board to enact a temporary moratorium and overlay district for the Exit 18 Gateway section of town. This section of town is a vital location for bicyclists and pedestrians as it serves as the main entry point for those entering the town from the east. Currently, those who traverse this section on bike, foot, in wheelchairs, and on skateboards, are confronted with dangerous and unfriendly conditions. These conditions will not improve, and will quickly deteriorate, if any new developments are approved without careful attention to infrastructure that supports non-motorized transportation. Before any developments are approved for this section of town, it is important that the town give serious consideration to and adopt a vision for the Exit 18 Gateway corridor. A temporary moratorium will allow for this crucial planning to occur.

The New Paltz Bicycle Pedestrian Committee is especially concerned that without a moratorium, new developments will irreversibly alter this section of town and make future bicycling and pedestrian improvements impossible. We are particularly worried about the effect that developments will have on the 100 + mile trail network being championed by Ulster County Commissioner Mike Hein. When completed, this trail network promises to be one of the longest and most used networks in the United States. Much of this trail network is in place and ultimately, it will reach from the Ashokan Reservoir across the Walkway over the Hudson all the way to the Hopewell Junction depot. One of the few remaining gaps in this trail network runs right through the Exit 18 Gateway corridor. It would be an utter travesty if development proceeded in this section without the utmost concern and planning for this valuable trail network.

Given our town's well-earned reputation for being forward thinking and environmentally conscious, wouldn't it be disgraceful if the Gateway corridor is the only section of this extensive trail network that fails to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians in a friendly and safe manner? By enacting a temporary moratorium and overlay district for this section of town, we can ensure that any new developments will provide for safe, friendly, and modern bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

Action Items for Next Meeting

- **Route 299 Shoulders:** Justin M. agreed to write a letter in support of this project

- **Surplus Bicycle Racks:** Judy M. will inquire about placing a rack at the post office; Pamela will inquire about a rack in the Convenient Deli Plaza; Tom R. will inquire about the abandoned bikes on the rack in the Plattekill parking lot
- **Worst Roads for Biking and Walking:** BPC members will make a list of the most dangerous/unfriendly streets for biking and walking in New Paltz. The BPC will then distribute this list to elected officials and DPW contacts. An article in the *NP Times* should also be considered.
 - Sections already mentioned:
 - Stewarts & Rt. 32 (Pedestrian-Activated Crosswalk Light)
 - Crosswalk NP Youth Center (Pedestrian-Activated Crosswalk Light)
 - North/South Oakwood (Pedestrian-Activated Crosswalk Light)/(Curb out)

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting: May 16, 2016, Village Hall, 7:00—9:00 p.m.