

Town of New Paltz Planning Board

FINAL Minutes

June 27, 2016

Workshop Meeting With the TIC

Agenda:

Discussion on Route 299 Speed Reduction
Discussion on Route 299 Corridor Study (4' shoulder)
Discussion on No Parking Proposal on Butternut Rd.
UCAT Bus Tour Idea (with regards to Minnewaska)
Twin Star Site Visit Reminder

Present: Mike Calimano, Lyle Nolan, Adele Ruger, Amanda Gotto, Stana Weisburd, George Lithco

Board Member(s) absent: Lagusta Yearwood, Amy Cohen, Tom Powers

Others Present: Stacy Delarede, Building Inspector; Gail Gallerie, TIC; Harry Ellis, TIC; xxx, TIC

Chairman Calimano called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

There is a discussion on the DOT form for speed reduction. It is a very simple form. However, it is felt that more background information is needed. Chairman Calimano would like to see what the TIC thinks about this speed reduction request before the Planning Board sends it to the Town Board. Gail Gallerie questions the exact section for the speed reduction request. Chairman Calimano would like to see the whole length reduced, but they may not receive backing. Therefore, he would start by requesting just the Town portion of Route 299. Ms. Gallerie discusses her committee's research into this topic as well. Her Board did do a vast study, and sent that information for a speed reduction to the Town Board. They know that the Mohonk Preserve supports this as well. Her committee takes a hiatus for the summer months. She did do an electronic poll, and they did not have a majority of members in support of this. Mr. Ellis feels strongly about this topic as he lives along this section of road. He states that in 2013 he did submit a request to Supervisor Zimet. He discusses, in particular, the issues with the Butternut Road/Albany Post Road and Route 299 intersection. He shows the Board some photographs. XX

discusses issues he sees with this intersection as well. There is continued discussion on how the Town did restripe this intersection, as well as some issues with the mowing of tall grasses that impede vision at this intersection. There is also a conversation on the changing routes of animals due to new fencing in the vicinity. Gail Gallerie mentions that there are members who do not agree with this, and have very valid reasons for doing so. She mentions that the State does put a lot of time and studies into making speed limit determinations. At this point her committee supports that this idea continues to be studied, but they do not support fully the actual request for a speed reduction. Amanda Gotto points out the inconsistencies with the guidance that the speed limit signs and the suggested speed limit signs pose to drivers.

Mike Calimano next discusses the reconfiguring of Gatehouse Road into a "T". The Highway Superintendant still does need to send this up to the County.

Mike Calimano states that he will send the Planning Boards recommendation to the Town Board, and request that more studies be done at these intersections. There is a brief conversation on alternate ideas for signage.

There is a conversation on the county creating 4' shoulders along Route 299, and continuing along Libertyville Road. The TIC did recommend paved shoulders suitable for bicycle traffic. Gail Gallerie believes that this may be scheduled for 2017.

There is a conversation on timing of the lights from the Ohioville area on up Route 299. Possibly coordinating these lights might reduce traffic standstill. This was part of the CVS traffic study. Gail Gallerie agrees that this should definitely be considered.

The TIC is looking into signage for certain areas that have to do with jaywalking, no stopping/no standing. Stacy Delarede notes that there will need to be new laws drafted allowing the PD to enforce this.

There is a conversation on parking along Butternut Road, and the problems that it causes. As well as understanding how some are accustomed to parking here and accessing the Preserve lands.

There is a conversation on the idea of having a UCAT bus leave the village and make stops to Mohonk and Minnewaska; and then making return trips in order to reduce traffic congestion. It was also mentioned that it would be nice to have a bus that went to the county pool as well. There are funding issues involved with these ideas. Stacy Delarede notes that there would then be no fees collected by Minnewaska, as they only charge for parking. It is discussed how the Student Association covers the fees for the loop bus, and the college funds the gas for this loop bus. It would be very difficult then to fund, or change the funding, to use these loop buses during down times.

Mike Calimano notes that the Board will draft something to the Town Board about ways to improve the Route 299 corridor, including items such as more and different signage, the realignment of certain intersections, and also including the possibility of a speed reduction. He will draft something and run it by the TIC.

There is a discussion on people getting off the Thruway in Newburgh to avoid traffic getting to nearby destinations. This does alleviate traffic, but it is not good for local businesses. Though many who do get off do drive right on through, and that could be due to parking issues.

Mike Calimano will stay in contact with the TIC on these draft write ups.

Gail Gallerie discusses some items with regards to the TIP program.

Mike Calimano mentions the Twin Star site visit this Thursday at 5 pm.

Mike Calimano also mentions the ENCP having a Habitat Assessment Demo on July 23. An email was sent to all Board members for anyone who is interested in attending.

Adele Ruger has a question about the moratorium committee. She is concerned that the Town Board appointed Lagusta Yearwood, the Planning Board had no say in it, but that she represented the Planning Board. Stana Weisburd says that she was just picked as a Planning Board member. Amanda Gotto states that that is a representation of the Planning Board. Adele Ruger would like to meet with this Ad-Hoc committee. Mike Calimano thinks that this committee does not exist, as they did their research and already presented it. They are no longer doing any further work at this point. Amanda Gotto mentioned that they did agree that they would like to meet with the Ad-Hoc committee. Mike Calimano states that if the Town did want to move ahead, they would need to draft up a law and distribute it. They would then need a public hearing. At this point the Town has taken no action.

The next meeting will be a workshop meeting. Chairman Calimano won't be there, but he will get an agenda together. July 25 will be a regular meeting with a rather large agenda. The first meeting in August will be cancelled, and we will run a regular meeting the second meeting in August.

Stana Weisburd has offered to be the liaison between the ENCB and the Planning Board. Chairman Calimano mentions that they are copied on every application that the Planning Board receives.

Motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Mike Calimano.

2nd by Lyle Nolan.

All others present in favor. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Kelly O'Donnell