

Transportation Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes

January 26, 26, 2016

Present: Neil Bettez, Harry Ellis, Gail Gallerie, Mark Sherman, and Tom Weiner

Also: Stacy Delarade, Alison Nash, Christine Marmo and Josh Tabak.

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. in Village Hall.

After Harry's noting the duplicate commas in attendance listing, motion made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the November 17 minutes. Minutes unanimously approved.

Chair's Report

Gail welcomed Town Supervisor Neil Bettez as the newly appointed Town Council liaison to the committee and expressed on behalf of the committee appreciation for the supervisor's willingness to serve in this capacity and also his commitment to representing New Paltz at UCTC meetings.

Gail reported that her travel plans for May which had resulted in date change for May meeting had changed. She will do an email survey of committee's preference for retaining earlier date or changing to the following week.

Committee Reports

BPC.

In Tom R's absence, Gail reported that the BPC is working on the identification of areas in the Village where it would like sharrows for cyclists painted. The committee is also exploring with the Town where sharrows might be added. Given the time of year, snow removal in the Village is another focus for the committee.

Gail noted the recent BPC membership solicitation in the *New Paltz Times* and said that she was considering drafting something similar for TIC. Neil commented that our concern for adding members is shared by a number of other committees. He reported that he and Mayor Rogers have been discussing holding a "committee fair" during which representative of all the municipal committees seeking new members could speak with residents who are interested in these service opportunities. Committee members expressed enthusiasm for this idea.

Mark spoke of his concern about motorists finding pedestrians/cyclists/skateboarders very difficult to see after dark. Other committee members spoke of experiences that reinforced that concern. Mark had written to the BPC of this concern and his suggestion that they consider an educational campaign. Stacy suggested that one vehicle for this might be the presentation the Village Building Inspector makes at the college's new student orientations.

Loop Reports

The ridership and expense reports for December and the 4th quarter had been transmitted prior to the meeting. Harry expressed interest in how many people are using the Loop for each of its runs and speculated that the buses being used are larger than needed. He suggested that a survey be done over the course of a week to ascertain an answer to this question. It was agreed that Gail will follow-up with the UCAT director on this.

Updates

Bus Shelters

The frame for the shelter at the Teen Scene was installed just before Christmas. One of the glass panels had been broken and the structure was taped off pending the purchase of new glass. Both budgetary issues and that of difficulty working with rubber seals during the cold weather will delay completion under the spring. Gail reported that the town Highway Superintendent would be looking into the removal of the tape so that the structure could be used as is for at least partial shelter.

No further progress on the proposed shelters on both sides of Main St. near the bus station had been reported.

Multi-modal transportation hub.

Gail reported that the consultant's final report had been submitted to the county which expected to transmit to the Mayor by the end of February. Mayor Rogers was able to join the committee briefly and indicated a willingness to discuss with this committee the value of any further public information sessions on that report. Ms. Nash and Ms. Marmo sought and received assurance that the residents of Prospect Street would be kept informed of any plans for action on that report.

Gail also reported that the county was planning on improvements being made to the Kingston bus station and speculated about whether the county would be using for those improvements some of the funding that it had earmarked for improvements in New Paltz. The county was also having discussions with Trailways about service delivery but had offered assurance that any changes would not "worsen" the current levels of service.

So. Putt Project

There remain some right-of-way issues to be resolved though not related to property owner resistance. The county had reported that this project is now expected to begin late this year with completion in 2017. Tom W. explained that what can be expected to occur later this year is contract letting and that actual construction will not begin until 2017. The county is considering repaving So. Putt in advance of this shoulder project.

Carmine Liberta Bridge

The Ulster County Director of Planning had reported that everything for this project seems to be in place with the exception of some borings that need to be done to establish whether there may be artifacts in the river where the temporary bridge would be installed. Construction of the temporary bridge is now expected to be done in June/July, rather than April, but completion by November is still projected. Lighting for the new bridge has not been finalized and there may be another meeting of the advisory committee for this purpose.

There was discussion of difficulties with left turns onto Main St. and through-traffic from both Huguenot and Water Streets. Josh suggested that a "stop line" at least at Huguenot/Main might improve this situation, particularly for drivers attempting a left turn onto Huguenot. It was also suggested that both Huguenot and Water Streets may be wide enough at this intersection allow for left/straight and right turn arrows.

N. Front/N. Chestnut St. striping

Tom R. had been able to establish that the Village had made an official request of DOT to mark this intersection with left/straight and right turn arrows.

UPWP applications

Supervisor Bettez and Mayor Rogers had met with the Ulster County Director of Planning on January 22 and discussed the status of these applications. Mayor Rogers reported that Director Dennis Doyle had told them that our application for a traffic congestion study focusing on peak periods would not be funded because the proposed study would only yield another report that New Paltz would not act on! The rail trail application will be funded. The application for improvements on N. Chestnut had not yet been reviewed. The county had offered assistance to the Village and Town with sidewalk inventories and pavement management.

Crosswalk at Prospect/Main Streets

Ms. Nash and Ms. Marmo asked if there were any updates to the discussion at the committee's November meeting regarding this matter. There were no further actions reported. There was a discussion of the barriers to a crosswalk at this intersection. Tom W. renewed his offer of DOT assistance with the development of a conceptual design of modifications that would be needed before a crosswalk could be approved.

Left-turn arrow at N. Manheim/Main St.

Tom W. reported that installation likely to occur by the time this committee meets in March.

Road Safety

Stacy reported on her follow-up on earlier discussions of creating an email address for use by residents in reporting their specific road safety concerns. She found that this can be done at a very minimal charge. Neil indicated a willingness to support this but also suggested a web site alternative. The

matter of who would be responsible for reading and responding to emails received had not been addressed. Gail will follow-up with Stacy.

New Business

Governor's 2016-17 budget includes \$22 billion for road and bridge improvements. Tom W. explained that includes some new money but that most of it is for projects already programmed as part of the 5 yr. plan.

Harry cited the recent report on intersection accidents that revealed that those due to animals exceeded those attributable to intersection angles. He also noted that the recently installed OSI fencing along 299 is impacting deer traffic.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail K Gallerie