

Transportation Implementation Committee Meeting

March 22, 2016

Present: Neil Bettez, Allan Bowdery, Gail Gallerie, Tom Rocco, Mark Sherman and Tom Weiner

Also: Stacy Delarade, Christine Marmo and Josh Tabak

Special Guest: Alan Stout, liaison to So. Putt Project advisory committee

The meeting was opened at 7:01 p.m. in the Community Center

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 26 meeting unanimously approved.

Chair's Report

Gail welcomed back emeritus committee member Alan Stout for discussion of the update on the So. Putt Corners project and noted her particular pleasure in Alan's being in attendance at the 10th(!!) anniversary meeting of this committee.

Committee Reports

BPC. The conclusion of a study of sharrows that marking bike paths with them poses safety questions had resulted in Supervisor Bettez's expressing reservations about proceeding with the implementation of plans for sharrows in New Paltz and the BPC Chair indicating that perhaps these plans should be reconsidered. Tom W. cautioned that additional research should be done to determine whether safety concerns have been proven.

Loop. The January reports had been distributed with the meetings materials. Gail had also forwarded email s with the UCAR Director following up on last month's suggestion that the Loop drivers conduct a survey to determine actual ridership. The UCAT Director had replied that such a survey would be too onerous for the drivers. Harry had responded with offering the possibility of his devoting a day to riding the circuit in an effort to collect data.

Old Business

A. Updates

1. So. Putt Project. The report of BPC Advisory Committee representative, Bill Weinstein, annotated by TIC liaison, Alan Stout, had been distributed prior to the meeting. Discussion focused on the county's request that the town/village publicize the work that is projected to begin this fall with the cutting of trees to make room to the 6' wide shoulders. Supervisor Bettez and Trustee Rocco were asked to assure reports being made to the two boards and to consider posting information on the municipal web sites and Facebook pages. Mark agreed to follow-up on coverage in the *New Paltz Times*. Alan graciously agreed to follow –

up with the county on questions committee had about the number of trees to be removed, etc.

The advisory committee had discussed designating the area near the high school as a “school zone.” Neil reported that the School Superintendent had informed him that this area on So. Putt is already so designated, something of which the Police Department had been unaware . There was discussion of options for making the school zone signage more prominent.

There was discussion of bike/ped signage for the new shoulders and Allan found the URL for the site with federally acceptable signage. This will be discussed further next month.

Also deferred, after discussion, to next month’s agenda is proposed crosswalk between Hampton Inn and ShopRite Plaza. Serious reservations about the safety of a crosswalk at this location, which had been required of the developer by the Town Planning Board, and potential complications related to plans for the SR Plaza require further consideration.

2. Study of Rte. 299 speed limits west of the Wallkill to 44/55.

Cf. GG 3/1/8 email to committee re: Town Planning Board Chair’s quest for funding of a county study of proposed speed limit reduction. This committee formally recommended to the Town Board, in November 2013, that this matter be studied by the county. Motion to reaffirm this recommendation failed to secure a second.

3. Main/Manheim left-turns signals

Installed and operational! Many thanks to DOT .

4. Multi-modal transportation hub

Christine reported that she had spoken with the Director of Ulster County Planning and he had told her that the final report will be sent to the Village in April. When Gail spoke with the Director in January, the delivery date was late February.

5. Carmine Liberta Bridge

Construction of temporary bridge now projected for June. Gail’s efforts to learn of plans for another meeting of the advisory committee had been unsuccessful. Josh suggested adding to this project the development of parking immediately off Rte. 299 on Springtown Rd.

There was consensus that a series of technical and aesthetic reasons would legislate against OSI ever agreeing to this.

6. N.Front/N.Chestnut St. striping

Cf. GG's 3/15 email transmitting DOT letter disapproving this request because parking on both sides in this area renders the remaining area too narrow for the requested striping.

7. CVS/5 Guys Application

Cf. GG's 3/15 email for background. The committee members were understanding of the safety issues resulting in DOT's stipulating that the current "slip road" off 299 to N. Putt would have to be eliminated if this project is approved.

8. UPWP applications

Cf. GG 3/2 email confirming that the application for funding for a study of event traffic/parking had not been approved but that the Village applications for the Enhanced Linear Park (rail trail) and N.Chestnut/Gateway had been as a combined project. Tom W. reported that the Director of Ulster County Planning had indicated that future prospects of funding for the traffic study would be dependent on evidence of Town/Village interest in this effort and willingness to take ownership of it, e.g. creation of a committee

9. Village Paving Request

Cf. GG 3/15 email requesting DOT's inclusion of portions of state roads in the Village in their 2017 paving schedule.

10. Bus Shelters

The rear glass panel for Teen Scene shelter again broke during installation but tape had been removed so that shelter is being used. No further developments reported on shelters near the bus station.

VI. New Business

A. Road Safety

Cf. GG 3/15 email. Gail thanked Stacey for follow-up and Neil for agreeing to having his assistant work with us on developing the site soliciting and following up on community reports of concerns. There was consensus that this outreach should continue over the summer.

Village Safety Committee. Deferred to next meeting.

B. 2016 TAP Funding

Tom W. announced that funding for sidewalk improvements will be available this year. Gail reminded everyone of the BPC sidewalk inventory, with priorities for improvements, that had been adopted by the Village Board and urged reference to that in developing funding requests. Neil inquired about the applicability of this funding for making improvements to the Town's sidewalks on upper Main Street handicapped accessible and navigable. Tom W. indicated that such work could be funded through TAPs and offered DOT assistance with the conceptualization of what such work would entail.

Meeting adjourned 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail K. Gallerie

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