

Transportation Implementation Committee Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Town Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

In attendance were Gail Gallerie, Allan Bowdery, Harry Ellis, Daniel Torres, Tom Rocco, William Amoyaw, Tom Weiner, and Mark Sherman.

A guest, Alison Nash, was also present along with Josh Tabak and Stacy Delarede.

Gail introduced our new member, William Amoyaw, a student representative from the College, and we introduced ourselves to William.

II. After a brief discussion, the minutes of our October 27 meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

III. Chair's Report

Gail reported on her attendance at a meeting of an ad hoc subcommittee of the Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC). This was a special meeting on updating the TIP for the coming fiscal year. There was a subsequent meeting of the UCTC which approved the subcommittee's funding proposals which included a transfer of funds to our S. Putt projects from projects deferred by the City of Kingston.

Soon after, she initiated a meeting with Supervisor-elect Neil Bettez to give him an overview of TIC's efforts and enlist his support. Their discussion included New Paltz representation on the UCTC which alternates biannually between the Town and Village. But the boards have used proxies in recent years. The Town's turn began in June 2016 and Gail has been serving as the Supervisor's proxy. She had spoken with the Supervisor-elect about the importance of elected officials representing New Paltz at the UCTC meetings. Mark and Tom W. agreed with this.

IV. Committee Reports

A. BPC.

Tom R. commented on meeting with Bike-Ped and then communicating with Chris Marx. Chris said he intends to work on H.W. Dubois improvements, and that would include making them bike-ped friendly, including "sharrows" being put on the road.

The Bike-Ped committee would like more members, including two from the Village and two from the Town. They have outlined 15 possible objectives, and will focus on three of those for the next six months.

Our committee then discussed the “River to Ridge” project west of the Wallkill, including fencing on the north side of Rte. 299. The role of the Open Space Institute (OSI) was part of this discussion.

There was also a brief discourse on enforcement of the law on vehicles yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks, where there is data available. While there is general agreement among members of the T.I.C. that there has been tremendous improvement in driver behavior at crosswalks since crosswalks and signage became part of our Village roadscape, Mark pointed out that New York state is years behind other states in the general observance of this law. But he agreed that New Paltz is leading the way.

B. Loop reports.

Gail said there were no loop reports because we were meeting a week earlier than usual. But she added that ridership has increased.

V. Old Business

A. Updates

1. Revised T.I.P.

Tom W. talked about statewide cutting of funds for the seven counties covered by the DOT office in Poughkeepsie. But, he added, Ulster County has a rather good match up with needs and money. And he happily added that there should be needed dollars available for the S. Putt project, since Kingston has withdrawn a couple of its previously proposed projects.

2. Bus shelters/Village.

After many years of planning and approvals, the one to be in front of the Teen Scene should start construction tomorrow (November 18).

VI. New Business

Based on input from our guest, Alison Nash, there was a lengthy discussion about the intersection of Main and Prospect Streets, and on the possible need for a crosswalk across Main Street at Prospect. But there are problems connected to this because of the wide gas station driveway on the north side of Main that has been “grandfathered” in. The possibilities of sidewalks to facilitate a crosswalk was mentioned.

Gail recommended that in January we pursue this issue of pedestrian access enhancements. Tom W. said that DOT could help with conceptual plans, for a possible TAP grant.

Gail expressed appreciation, on behalf of the committee, to the Village Planner for his work on submitting Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) grant applications for Event Traffic/Parking, an Enhanced Linear Park/Gateway Wallkill Valley Rail Trail and streetscapes for newly rezoned portions of N. Chestnut St. The funding sought would be used for studies.

It was acknowledged that traffic has picked up with the better economy. Harry talked about various possibilities for event traffic and parking. And the group discussed how people coming from the south can get off the Thruway at Exit 17 to go to the Mohonk Preserve, and events such as Taste of New Paltz.

B. Road Safety. There was a meeting held on November 9 re road safety issues. The Town Board had become aware of concerns from residents. Dave Clauser talked about road audits. Ken Wensted is a traffic safety consultant, who could be helpful.

The T.I.C. talked about inviting members of the community to bring in their concerns. Stacy suggested an email address for people's safety concerns, especially general ones (not immediate ones – which should probably go the relevant body, such as the police department). There ensued a discussion of how to handle community members' road safety concerns. There was general agreement that both Boards should talk about this, perhaps at their joint meeting tomorrow (November 18).

Allan brought up the pending N. Front St. lane stripping at N. Chestnut St.

William raised an issue of the visibility of the stop sign at Plattekill and Hasbrouck Avenues as well as that of the crosswalk there.

Stacy had questions re sidewalks and curb ramps. And Tom said the DOT would address in its five-year plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sherman