

Transportation Implementation Committee Minutes

September 26, 2017

Present: Stacy Delarede Harry Ellis, Gail Gallerie, Chris Marx, Mark Sherman, Josh Tabak and Bill Wheeler.

Guest: Dave Gilmour, Village of New Paltz Planner

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Motion made by Gail and seconded by Josh to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2017 meeting as distributed approved.

On behalf of the committee, Gail welcomed William (Bill) Wheeler newly appointed Village Board liaison to the committee and expressed pleasure that Bill is also serving as board liaison to BPC and, therefore, will be able to keep each committee informed of mutual concerns.

Chair's Report

Gail reported that she had invited the college's sustainability coordinator to a future meeting to discuss opportunities for collaboration between this committee and that office. That office's announcement of a Car Free Day was the catalyst for this.

UCAT Update

Village Planner, Dave Gilmour joined the meeting to share what he'd learned at the recent UCAT policy committee meeting. Dave had attended as the Mayor's proxy and there was discussion of whether the Village and Town of New Paltz alternate on UCAT or if Village is now alternating with Ellenville.

Dave focused on UCAT's discussion of the NYS Pedestrian Safety Action plan. This is a 5 yr. program which will provide \$150 million for safety planning and \$110 million in competitive local grants. Since DOT seemed to be emphasizing projects on state-owned roads, Dave had advocated for improvements in the vicinity of the Middle School where so much local investment has already been made. It was suggested that continuing needs for sidewalk improvements be reviewed for this purpose and that the inventory of needs prepared by the BPC be updated.

Committee Reports

Bike Ped. Gail noted that health issues had necessitated Peter Kaufman's relinquishing the BPC chair and that the committee had been fortunate in BPC member, Dan Lipson, agreeing to assume the chair.

Chris updated the committee on the 3-yr. project for creating bike/ped shoulders on Henry W. DuBois Drive. Town/Village cooperation had significantly advanced that work but Chris reported that further work has been suspended due to the Town Supervisor's interest in revising the project to include separated bike/ped lanes.

Loop Reports. The second quarter and summer reports had been distributed with the meeting materials. Note was taken of the decline, 2016/2017 in ridership in both student/faculty and community usage.

Gail had made an inquiry of the UCAT Director about progress on a cost analysis of the weekend service utilizing the route Alan Bowdery had outlined and was awaiting a reply. Harry had contacted the school district's transportation director about the possibility of using district buses and drives, rather than UCAT, and learned that the cost of using district drivers would be \$27. per hr. considerably less than UCAT. It had been suggested that the proposed weekend service be piggy-backed on the contract the district has with the Office of the Ageing. Harry had had a preliminary conversation with someone from that agency who had been encouraging about this possibility.

Stacy suggested the possibility of creating a transportation district, ala the library, which would fund the weekend service through a modest town-wide tax.

Old Business: Updates

A. Rte. 299 speed reduction & stop sign installations

Cf. Ulster County Director of Planning letter of August 17, 2017 which preserves 55 mph. speed limit but also addressed some safety concerns by announcing the installation of stop signs on Rte. 299 at Butternutville and Albany Post Roads creating a four-way stop at that intersection.

Harry reported that early experience was suggesting that the stop signs were being effective. Josh reported that another homeowner in that area had reported being disturbed by the noise created by cars stopping at the intersection. Harry also reported on another accident which resulted in a vehicle landing on his property. The ineffectiveness of debris clean-up from that accident led to discussion of responsibility for debris removal. Based on his prior experience as a towing company owner, Chris explained that the towing company has that responsibility and, in fact, the costs of debris removal are part of what towers receive as insurance compensation. It was suggested that Harry contact the NPPD chief about this matter for incorporation into negotiations with towing companies to be used by the town.

Harry proposed that rumble strips be added on 299 to alert drivers to the new stop signs. This will require action by the county. Chris noted that such strips would have to be inset rather than raised because of snow plowing considerations. It was also suggested the LED lights be added to these stop signs.

B. Taziaki parking space. Gail will provide Bill with a copy of the committee's recommendation to the Village Board for the removal of his parking space.

C. No-stopping/standing on Main Street. Gail will follow-up with Bill also on this.

D. S. Putt Project.

Cf. Bill Weinstein 9/7/ email update

E. Rail Trail Bridge. Chris noted the Town Supervisor's success in securing a state grant that covered the cost of this bridge connecting the Rail Trail and Springtown Rd. The new bridge had been delivered and installed but was not yet open which Chris anticipated occurring within the week. Gail commented on the relative speed with which this has been accomplished noting that it was not a year since the bridge had been deemed unsafe for continued use and had to be closed.

VI. New Business

A. Village speed limits (cf. Michael Reade 9/6 email)

Adjournment time arrived before this discussion could occur. However, there was a brief discussion of the Village Board's decision to retain stop signs at N. Front/Huguenot Streets despite the closure of a segment of Huguenot Street and the NPPD assessment that stop signs are no longer needed. Bill explained that the Village Board had concluded that there remain significant enough pedestrian safety issues at that intersection to retain the stop signs in addition to the cross walks. Stacy added that she frequently travels in this area for her work and believes that conditions support the Village Board's conclusion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail K. Gallerie, Scribe Pro Tem