

New Paltz Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Minutes—January 13, 2014

At Village Hall

7:00 – 9:00 PM

7:17

Present:

Justin Dates, Village

Peter Kautman, SUNY New Paltz

Dan Lipson, Town

Judy Mage, Village

Rebecca Rotzler, Village Liaison

Pamela St. John, Town

Dan Torres, Town Liaison

Bill Weinstein, Town (Chair)

Absent:

Tom Murray, Village

Will Raphaelson, Village

Announcements

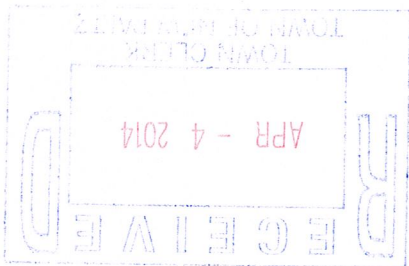
- One Town vacancy.

Public Comment

Approval of November minutes.

Old Business

1. **South Putt project.** Alan Stout will continue on this until it is finished. Justin Dates reported that the preliminary design report will be submitted to DOT and that it will incorporate public recommendations.
2. **Village or Town liability at Ridge Apartments connection to Cherry Hill neighborhood.** The liability may be less the town or village's and more the owner of Ridge Apartments. The current "squeeze-through" at the chained-off access road onto Joalyn may be construed as a "inviting nuisance." An example of an inviting nuisance would be a backyard swimming pool that is not fenced off that serves as lure to neighborhood children and which may pose a danger to them. Providing clear and safe access might eliminate this potential liability.
3. **Safe Routes to School technical assistance grant.** The school district is putting together a School Working Group (SWG). Pamela St. John, Bill Weinstein and Carol Connolly will be among the participants.
4. **Committee member recruitment.** Dan will put something on Facebook about this.
5. **Crosswalk at HW Dubois for Mulberry Square Apartments.** The curbside have been made. The striping will take place when winter is behind us.
6. **Route 299 Flats developments.** The Town has received the grant. Mohonk Preserve is coordinating a meeting of the Route 299 Flats Bike-Ped Committee. The bike-ped committee will be integrally involved in this effort.
7. **Bike racks in town and village:** There is no current news about installation of bike racks at the Nyquist Refuge, the Post Office parking lot or about Will Raphaelson's efforts in this direction.
8. **Asking the Town to enact a law requiring new construction and renovations to include bicycle parking.** Bill will write to the Planning Board to learn its perspective about where bike-parking ought to be in the Town code. Currently it's in Site-Plan Review. It's the committee's consensus that bike-parking regulations more properly belong in Off-Street Parking. This would give party between bicycles and motor vehicles.
9. **In-street signage at rail trail crossings.** Recommendation from the committee to the Village from Dan. Dan will call Port Ewen mayor.
10. **Inaudible recording at Cherry Hill crossing.** Peter will sleuth this.
11. **Reporting dangerous sewer grates.** Bill has notified Susan about this again. His initial November email fell afoot of end-of-year distractions.



12. Better monitoring of Town and Village planning boards. Appearing before the boards. The committee has opened up channels with the two boards, with the Town PB with regard to recent correspondence about bike racks and with the Village PB in connection to VPB member Michael Zierler telling Bill that the VPB will pay more attention to the Village code pertaining to bike racks.

New Business

1. Judy Mage's proposed letter to Mike Hein. (See Page 2.) The committee would like to look at a revision of the letter by Friday (done by email) so the TIC can consider it at its next meeting.
2. Press release for Exit 18 bike shelter. The committee agreed that it would be best to wait for warmer weather. Dan Torres said that he has gotten several hundred Facebook views of the photos.
3. Installation of new signs at various gateway entrances to New Paltz. There is a growing consensus among the committee that the Town needs new signage. The Town and Village boards may also be receptive to this.
4. Striping the streets. The Village has hired a new planner. When she comes on board, this may be a good time to consider how best to stripe the streets.
5. Alliances with other interested groups. Bill explained that a resident contacted him to say that there are other groups in our community who would like to see improved conditions for non-motorized users of the streets. Runners would be one obvious example. Reaching out to Fats in the Cats brought Tom Murray onto the committee. People with disabilities is another interest group. Another important relationship is with the Transportation Implementation Committee. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2014.

Dear Mike Hein:

Congratulations on obtaining a substantial grant to help create the Catskills rail trail for cyclists and walkers. We are excited at the prospect of "connectivity" that this project opens up. But there is a crucial "missing link" in the hoped for connections of the various rail trails, in this case the Highland Trail and the New Paltz trail. We hope that funds could be found to improve...really establish.... this link. We are referring to Henry W. DuBois Boulevard in New Paltz, which runs from North Putt Corners Road on the east, down to Route 32 on the west, parallel to Main Street.

For years Henry DuBois has been the only real alternative to Main Street (Route 299) for the majority of cyclists who do not wish to risk Main Street traffic. But it is a very problematic and dangerous alternative.. There is no real shoulder, and only segments of sidewalk. There is a lot of car traffic by-passing the frequent traffic jams on Main Street. Despite the many stop signs, cars often go quite fast. Because sections of the street are rather steep hills, people with children are afraid to take a child on this "by-pass". When repairs were made some time ago nothing was done to make the street safer.

We'd like to invite you to come down to New Paltz and meet with representatives of our Bike and Pedestrian committee to tour the length of this street and make an appraisal for yourself of how it could be made safer with bicycle lanes on either side. Not only would this benefit cyclists who would like to go from the New Paltz trail to the Highland trail and on to the Walkway.. but would encourage the teenagers who would like to cycle to the High School once the South Putt Corners project is completed. There are children who live in the vicinity of Route 32, on Huguenot Street and other local streets who would cycle to the NP Middle School if DuBois were made safer. The "Safe Streets to School" initiative could be made a reality, as it is not presently in New Paltz.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. You can reach us easily by calling () or emailing (). Sincerely,

Eco-tourism

Connectivity

Connect rail trails

For the New Paltz Bike &

Pedestrian Committee

cc: Chris White

Susan Zimet

Jason West

Kevin Cahill

Hector Rodriguez

Gail Gallerie / TIC