

Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes  
Mon Jan 25, 2021

**PRESENT**

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Bill Weinstein	Daniel Lipson	Janelle Peotter	Kitty Brown
Mark Eis	Lou Klepner	Michael Reade	Neil Bettez
Shanna Marie	Tim Rogers		

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

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1. Minutes from Mon Nov 23, 2020 meeting were approved. You can find the minutes at our town website ([townofnewpaltz.org/bicyclepedestrian-committee](http://townofnewpaltz.org/bicyclepedestrian-committee)) on the right menu.
2. Kitty Brown's request that the Bike/Ped committee write a letter supporting locating the Empire State Trail path adjunct to, rather than within, what is now a **vegetative buffer** (adjoining the Thruway). Instead, Kitty and Ingrid **urge that the buffer be protected** and that **the Empire State Trail be constructed next to the buffer**.

The Town Board no longer has any leverage over such decisions. Currently, TransHudson is suing the town. In addition, TransHudson either is or else may soon be submitting a request to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Depending on the verdicts from these two avenues, TransHudson may return to the Town Planning Board. We will keep monitoring what transpires.

3. Request letter to New York State Department of Transportation to make all Empire State Trail crossings (i.e. Putt Corners Road, Ohioville Road, South Street) No Right On Red intersections

In addition, we will ask New Paltz Police to do some enforcement (a.k.a. handing out tickets) at these intersections.

We will survey all of the traffic lights to confirm how many do prohibit versus permit right-on-red turns. If only a couple of intersections permit right-on-red turns, then this strengthens our hand in requesting to the New York State Department of Transportation that all traffic light intersections prohibit right turns on red.

4. **Route 299: status of timeline for constructing shoulders from Butternville Road to Route 44/55:**  
Judy will write a letter to the Deputy County Executive to express concern about how long it will take to complete construction of the shoulders on Route 299 between Butternville Road and Route 44/55. The county and state have identified all of the property owners along the route in order to acquire right-of-way. The officials have begun to reach out to these property owners. Property appraisals are now being conducted. The County Attorney's Office will be handling the necessary steps – negotiations, contracts, deeds, filings, and payments required to acquire the entire right-of-way. The current expectation is that the construction will begin in the second half of 2022 and perhaps will be completed in 2023.

5. Janelle: Governor Cuomo decided not to join the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) this time, but it's not over.

6. April 24: [Celebrate Trails Day](#) (formerly Opening Day for Trails) |

The committee members expressed interest in organizing an event so that New Paltz can participate in this national day of celebrating trails. Mark will post about this event in *The New Paltz Times* (currently incarnated as *Hudson Valley One* during the pandemic). We will reach out to the Walkway Over the Hudson, Open Space Institute, and the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. We will likely encourage people to post their participation via social media hashtags (#).

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.