

Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee Meeting Agenda
Mon May 24, 2021

PRESENT

Neil Bettez	Mark Eis	Hans Gutknecht
Daniel Lipson	Judy Mage	Stephen O'Shea
Janelle Peotter	Michael Reade	

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Minutes from Mon Apr 26, 2021 were approved. You can find the official, approved minutes at our town website (townofnewpaltz.org/bicyclepedestrian-committee) on the right menu.

1. Update on logo for our committee
Hans will work with Michele Zipp to finalize our logo.
2. The members opted to continue to meet via Zoom indefinitely.
3. Letters to request a shift or priority the values of MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices)
Judy would like Michael's letter to be shared so that others (the New York State Department of Transportation and elsewhere) read his letter. The next step will be to contact Erin Quinn to see if she would be receptive to doing a story on the effort to update MUTCD to respect complete streets principles instead of privileging traffic flow for automobiles. Michael has been in contact with Assembly member Phil Steck about this.
4. Updates about Henry W. Dubois Drive project
On Jun 8 from 6 to 7:30pm Alta Planning will host an informational meeting about this bicycle/pedestrian improvement project. We encourage you to attend and spread the word. Because of the prevailing MUTCD values that state and federal Departments of Transportation follow, the default has been big wide roads with shoulders on both sides and perhaps a sidewalk on one side. The steering committee for this project wanted a shared use path on the side. The New York State Department of Transportation requires us to provide an alternative. Our preferred alternative is a shared-use path (like the Lloyd section of the Empire State Trail). Alta Planning had to jump through many hoops to obtain approval from the New York State Department of Transportation. This is huge. This will make it safer for nervous, inexperienced bicycle riders and their families. Traffic calming measures will be a major item at the informational meeting. A raised crosswalk is one option. Pinch points are another option. The Alta Planning team will provide a couple of options for what the separation barriers. In some narrow sections it may only be a raised curb. In some sections it may be a wood or steel barrier. Another option is steel poles, which create more of a visual barrier. Landscaping will be brought up at this meeting too. The timeline entails putting bids out in the fall, do some work early in fall. The project should be completed by Fall 2022.
5. Dan will contact John Shupe at SUNY New Paltz about gaps in Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessible wheelchair routes/paths on campus.
6. Neil reported that bicycle racks will indeed be installed at the new fire/police station.

7. Dangerous grates need to be pointed out to the New York State Department of Transportation. If you notice any dangerous grates, then take pictures and write a letter. We can send it to the New York State Department of Transportation (send it to the town and village too) and say it needs to be addressed.
8. Missing in-street crosswalk signs:
Peter Karis contacted Ariana Basco and Dan Lipson to let us know that Open Space Institute placed two in-street crosswalk signs at the Springtown Road crosswalk for the River to Ridge trail, replacing the one that was apparently stolen. Dan asked Peter if one of the two could be placed in storage and if the remaining one could be returned to the center of the street. Currently, two are on the crosswalk – both on the shoulders.
9. Let's approach The New York State Department of Transportation again for a crosswalk at Prospect now that Sunoco has a proper curb cut. The New York State Department of Transportation will be doing improvements on Main Street, but not until around 2024. We can ask Tim and the Village Board to revisit the New York State Department of Transportation about this crosswalk. Also, we should request a crosswalk further up the hill on Main Street (Route 299) at Duzine Road. The Village and Town have been asking for these for years through numerous meetings with Sandra Jobson. The New York State Department of Transportation puts money into a Transportation Implementation Plan. Money will be available in 2024, so that's the moment of opportunity. This would make it more likely that we will see success in a couple of years. We should ask now but realize that it might take three years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Next meeting:

Mon Jun 28, 7-8:30pm

Future 2021 meetings:

Mon Jul 26, 7-8:30pm

Mon Aug 23, 7-8:30pm

Mon Sep 27, 7-8:30pm

Mon Oct 25, 7-8:30pm

Mon Nov 22, 7-8:30pm

[no meeting in Dec 2021]