

Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
Minutes – March 15, 2011
At Village Hall
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Public Input

Announcements

Old Business

1. *Bike lockers at Exit 18 park and ride:* DOT is working with Trailways on this. Hopefully, installation will begin this spring.
2. *Bike Parking Ordinance:* Jane Ann Williams will ask at this Thursday's Town board meeting whether the process should start with consideration by the Town Board or the Town Planning Board.
3. *February 8 Complete Streets workshop:* Bill thanked Alan, Clark and Justin for attending. The consensus was that it was a little below the sophistication of the audience. There was some agreement that we could benefit from a second seminar, perhaps by DOT, that got into the nitty-gritty of road design and other technical issues.
 - a. The committee learned from Jane Ann about the increased level of cooperation among local municipalities and SUNY New Paltz. Highway Superintendent Mike Nielson has drawn up a 20-year projection of trucks and other equipment that may not need purchasing due to sharing among the college, the school district and other localities. For instance, the school district can purchase old trucks from the highway department and from SUNY. In addition, the highway department makes the calls for the New Paltz schools about whether to open in the event of snow.
4. *Streetlight inventory.* No news about this.
5. *Highland Rail Trail / Wallkill Valley Rail Trail link.* Bill provided an update on this important project. Some highlights: the railroad tunnel running north from Tony Williams Park in Highland will be opened to bike-ped traffic; the connector will join Route 299 at the trailer park east of South Road; the route will run along the south side of Route 299, crossing at Ohioville Road and crossing the north side of the Thruway bridge; the sidewalk on the south side of the bridge will be eliminated to keep bike-ped traffic from crossing the Thruway entrance and to permit the widening of the bike-ped passageway on the north side; pedestrians will be directed down Main Street, bicyclists down HW DuBois.
6. *Stand-alone bikeshare program.* Bikes That Heal is in touch with Alta Planning about putting in a bid for New Paltz to be a location for the statewide bikeshare pilot project.
7. *Possible connector path from BOCES to Agway.* The Village does not have new information about this path. Shari will look into it.
8. *Bike-safety brochure.* Shelved.
9. *Monthly or bimonthly letter of praise to newspaper.* Bill asked the committee for input on this project. Shari suggested something along the lines of "Hey, it's springtime. You'll see more pedestrians and bicyclists on the road." Jackie will draft a letter.
10. *South Putt project.* Jane Ann Williams said there will soon be a meeting with IDA staff to discuss putting in water and sewer along South Putt Corners Road. One idea is to install a loop running along Route 32 to Brookside and then on Ohioville back to 299. Currently the Thruway bridge on Brookside has pipe that can be adapted to this use. This would enable the Town to tap into a potential water supply accessible along 299. Test wells still need to be dug. Village water for use on South Putt Corners Road is both expensive and unlikely to given New York City approval.
 - a. The committee's critical concern is that the expanded project come in on time. Many community and Ulster-County residents signed a petition asking that peds and bikes be given safe passage on an improved South Putt Corners Road. They did not sign a petition asking for infrastructure improvements, despite their presumed necessity.
 - b. Justin Dates will represent the local advisory committee being formed for this project.
11. *Route 208 letter to Region 8 NYSDOT.* Never answered.

New Business

1. *Dan Guenther's visit to the committee.* Shelved until next meeting.
2. *Clearing snow and ice from sidewalks.* This is one of the committee's major concerns. Snow season is largely past us and we now have a chance for a running start to create a workable plan for Winter 2011-2012. Shari asks the committee to come up with a workable plan. Jane Ann noted that there is apparently energy to spare for clearing parking lots but none for clearing sidewalks. Matt Flusser believes the answer lies in greater, hardnosed enforcement (i.e., fines) of Village and Town snow ordinances. He showed the committee an impassable crossing at the Dedrick's parking lot
 - a. Jackie Andrews and Matt Flusser will meet with Town and Village building inspectors to ask why they think there is an enforcement problem and how they would approach resolving the problem of clearing snow from New Paltz sidewalks.
3. *Wilmorite Project / SUNY New Paltz campus extension. How does one get bike-ped participation in this planning process?*
4. *Town map generated by Clouser Engineering and its mislabeled sidewalks.* Alan showed us the new planning map. Sidewalks labeled "priority" by Clouser Engineering were not based on the committee's Sidewalk Master Plan. Alan and Bill will draft a letter responding to our concerns, which are: (1) the Sidewalk Master Plan be adhered to; (2) the bike-ped committee would like to see the work it did with the Transportation Implementation Committee mentioned on the map.
5. *Request from Climate Action Coalition: What is our highest priority project?* Support bike-parking.
6. *Distracted driving.* Judy Reichler and Bill are looking into activities to raise awareness about the dangers of
7. *Eat to Ride / Ride to Eat and other Bike Month activities.* Bill will get the materials from Eric and see what needs to be done to get ETR organized.
8. *Orange County and Complete Streets-based questionnaires:* Justin and Jackie will collaborate to put together a draft questionnaire for residents about biking and walking that may spur new projects for our committee. It could be included with the water bills. Justin and Jackie will present about this at the next meeting.
9. *SUNY students' project.* Jane Ann spoke to the committee about a SUNY NP planning project: How could one expand blue light emergency phones in the Town. Hypothetical project. Just to let us know.

Next Meeting – May 17, 2011

*** Town Hall***