

**Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
Minutes – July 5, 2011
At Town Hall
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Re-scheduled from regular meeting date of July 19, 2011.

Convened 7:03 PM

In attendance:

Village:

Justin Dates

Judy Mage

Town:

Clark Peaslee

Alan Stout

William Weinstein

SUNY:

Kevin Caskey

Liaisons:

Village: Ariana Basco

Town: Jane Ann Williams

Absent:

Village:

Jackie Andrews

Visitors:

Dan Guenther, Margaret Human, Highway Superintendent Mike Neilson, Brenda Salt

Announcements

1. Welcome Ariana Basco, Village Liaison!
2. Brian Wallace has withdrawn as one of our Village reps. There is now a Village vacancy on the committee.

Public Input

1. Margaret Human asked the committee for financial and tabling support for the booth the Climate Action Coalition will have at the August 2-7, 2011 Ulster County Fair. The main theme of the CAS presentation booth will be "Lifestyle." Dan Guenther, also at the meeting to speak about another bike-related topic, said that there is no greater lifestyle issue than getting people out of their cars. CAC will promote bicycling and walking, and will display the bike-ped committee's visual and printed materials. The committee agreed to provide financial support for the booth and to offer staffing support where possible. Judy Mage suggested placing a time grid on the CAC website to make it easier for committee members and other interested citizens to sign up for slots convenient to them. Margaret Human: Bike-ped committee support for Climate Action Coalition at the Ulster County Fair
2. Dan Guenther, also from Climate Action Coalition, spoke to the committee about creating north-south bike lanes in the Village streets north of Main Street and also eliminating some parking on Main Street. These lanes would take advantage of empty space on alternating days for the purpose of street cleaning. Dan spoke passionately about the need to think of lifestyle strategies for our transitioning society, transitioning in the sense that our society has a more limited pool of energy resources, which will require retooling how we use energy in our daily lives, including our modes of transportation. Despite time constraints, the committee had a lively

discussion, with comments that ranged from one member's concern that his daughter be able to bike more easily to Moriello Pool and elsewhere in the village (which such lanes would facilitate) to the cost-benefit of instituting bike lanes that might anger residents of the affected streets who enjoy on-street parking (and how that might be an obstacle to long-term cooperation with our committee) to the safety or lack thereof when bicyclists ride on bike lanes as opposed to riding in the traffic lane with motor vehicles. Some research suggests that bike lanes may increase accidents.

Alan Stout, who sits on the Transportation Implementation Committee, suggested to Dan that he might bring his ideas to the TIC, which has discussed these questions over several years, starting with the Transportation and Land-Use Study.

Dan will return to the bike-ped committee's next meeting to discuss these questions further.

Old Business

1. *Bike Parking Ordinance.* Bill write a thank-you to the Town Board for passing this legislation and pass it around via email for comments. Bill also noted the commendation the Town received from the Ulster County Planning Board for passing this addition to the code, which the UCPB labeled "forward thinking" and embraced as a model for other UC municipalities.
2. *New York State Complete Streets legislation.* Bill noted that New York State ratified a Complete Streets vision for its highways. This is a win for the bicycle-pedestrian constituency especially but will also improve safety for all users of NYS's roads.
3. *Route 208 repairs, DOT road repair guidelines.* The New York Bicyclist Coalition (NYBC) is now interested in this issue and may work statewide about road-repair guidelines.
4. *Bicycle Parking at Thruway Park & Ride.* A path has now been built from the Thruway Bridge sidewalk to the park and ride, paving the way for the next stage of installing bike parking.
5. *Highland Rail Trail / Walkkill Valley Rail Trail link.* Planning continues.
6. Possible connector path from BOCES to Agway. Committee members continue to pursue making a safe pedestrian passage along the old right-of-way of Old Kingston Road, which was re-routed at the BOCES parking lot to intersect Route 32N (Chestnut Street) at a right angle. Many pedestrians climb over the barrier to walk straight towards the Agway parking lot rather than having to walk along the Route 32N.
7. *South Putt project.* Bill voiced his concern that it's almost one year since the committee initiated a petition drive that resulted in moving the South Putt Corners Road shoulders project back to the top of the TIP list. Mike Hein said the work would begin by the end of 2010. A group of concerned citizens creatively offered a proposal to piggyback needed infrastructure improvements (fiber optics cable, sewer, water lines) to create an industrial corridor. A local advisory committee is supposed to be constituted, and Bill has gotten word that the county is looking into a consultant for the planning process. However, as it stands, the thinking, planning and execution of the plan remains in a black box. Jane Ann Williams, Town Liaison to the committee, observed that the timing for putting in infrastructure is not exactly the same as putting in shoulders. Judy Mage offered to call Mike Hein's office to learn more about how the project is proceeding. It was mentioned that public forums for the Ulster County legislature elections would be a good place to query legislative hopefuls about their position on the project.
8. *Importance of continuing Terry Dungan's advocacy for Main Street crosswalks.* In the course of discussing this topic, the committee agreed that the current placement of the New Paltz Police Department electric signboard, just west of Prospect on Main Street as the road dips down to the main shopping and pedestrian district, is inspired. The sign alerts drivers to the risk of three points on their licenses should they fail to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. The committee agreed that cars seem to be stopping more. Bill has written a letter to Police Chief Joe Snyder thanking the department for its concern and proaction (if proaction is actually a word).
9. *Clearing snow and ice from sidewalks.* The committee hopes that by September it will spearhead planning in advance of winter. Jackie Andrews and Matt Flusser will meet in August to take the lead on this. Village Liaison Ariana Basco and Bill Weinstein (and possibly others) will contact the high school to see if helping seniors shovel walks would fulfill the community service requirement. Perhaps they can involve the college as well. Jane Ann Williams suggested expanding the program to other seasons, for instance, to include raking leaves.
10. *Wilmorite Project (SUNY New Paltz campus extension).* Jane Ann Williams reports that this has been referred to the county.

11. *Town map generated by Clouser Engineering and its relevance to bike-ped issues.* Shelved.
12. *Eat to Ride / Ride to Eat and other Bike Month activities.* Bill thanked the committee, acknowledged that he failed to write the requisite thank-you letter to the newspaper (and apologized for same), and lamented the fact that it rained heavily during the entire week.
13. *Streetlights inventory.* Shelved.
14. *Bill's note about Main Street sewer gratings.* Bill reported that his email to Toni about cracked pavement at two Main Street sewer grating and her prompt forwarding of same to NYSDOT resulted in a speedy repair of the hazards. Bill said he would write a letter of thanks to DOT.
 - a. The discussion reminded the committee of Doug Havnaer's grating inventory. Bill promised to forward the inventory to the committee.
15. *Can New Paltz become a walk-friendly community?* <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2011/04/walk-friendly-communities.html>. Shelved.
16. *New Paltz bike-ped survey. (Jackie Andrews, Justin Dates).* Shelved to next meeting.

New Business

1. Long-term goals and projects, proposals from Bill:
 - a. *Distracted driving.* The consensus of the committee was that this is a worthy goal but not directly within the committee's scope. More pertinent to the committee's focus would be getting sewer gratings replaced and obtaining more crosswalks. Justin Dates suggested that the New Paltz Police Department electric signboard would be a great place to get out a loud message about the dangers of phoning and texting while driving.
 - b. *Improving bike etiquette in and around New Paltz.* Bill asked the committee to consider this as a long-term goal for the committee.
2. Criteria for new members. Bill asked the committee to email him suggestions for a set of guidelines for participation to present to prospective bike-ped committee members.
3. *Bypass to bike-ped barrier behind Town Hall:* Alan Stout showed Bob Leghorn the barrier where Veterans Drive connects to Cooper Street behind Town Hall. Bob immediately got a work order from Toni Hokanson and built a gravel walkway around the barrier. Alan will send a thank-you to Bob on the committee's behalf. Alan is trying to get the same bypass (or other solution) at a similar barrier at Mulberry Square Apartments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Next Meeting –September 20, 2011, Town Hall