

**Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
November 15, 2011
At Village Hall
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Minutes of Meeting

Called to order at 7:01 PM

Present:

Village:

Matthew Flusser

Town

Jackie Andrews

Clark Peaslee

Alan Stout

Bill Weinstein

Liaisons

Ariana Basco, Village

Absent:

Village: Judy Mage, Justin Dates

Town Liaison: Jane Ann Williams

SUNY: Kevin Caskey

Visiting:

Colin Salt

Jason West

Announcements

1. The Village rep position remains open
2. The Committee extends an enormous thank-you to Jane Ann for her several years' service as Town liaison.
3. Alan Stout discussed the likelihood of extending a holiday invitation to his home for a committee get-together.

Public Input

None.

Old Business

1. **Bicycle Parking at Thruway Park & Ride.** Bill reported that he has spoken to DOT, which has renewed its interest in getting a bike-parking facility there. One of the sticking points seems to be how to manage lost keys (and probably other maintenance matters) for the proposed bike lockers. The committee supports a covered (sheltered) bike rack instead of bike lockers. Bill will present the committee's proposal to DOT.
2. **Highland Rail Trail / Wallkill Valley Rail Trail link.** Bill gave an update on the final report from the Southern Ulster Alliance feasibility study. When it's available, Bill will distribute the report to the committee.
3. **South Putt project.** The committee expressed frustration that there is seemingly no forward movement on the South Putt project.
4. **Main Street crosswalks.** Bill reported on his discussion with Mark Morano, NYSDOT traffic engineer, who has agreed to install a Main Street crosswalk at Grove. The request for a crosswalk at Prospect was denied due to its proximity to the gas station at this intersection, which has "unchannelized" access. This lack of curbcuts means that cars entering and exiting the gas station do so unpredictably, and thus poses a threat to pedestrians.

Mr. Morano explained that pedestrians are free to cross at this intersection regardless of a crosswalk, but that the installation of a crosswalk means that DOT is saying that it is reasonably safe to do, when in reality, in this case, it may not be. Placing the crosswalk a little further east, away from the gas station, would leave it too close to the new Grove Street crosswalk, which would not be good planning. The door is left open to revisit the question if the sidewalk is ever rebuilt, with appropriate curbcuts. Bill will write to the mayor and village planning board to bring this to their attention.

5. **Rail-trail crosswalk at Main Street.** The striping has been repainted.
6. **Old Kingston Road / Route 32N right-of-way at BOCES.** Village Attorney Joe Eriole spoke to the committee about the pedestrian right-of-way at BOCES, where the southern end of Old Kingston Road meets Route 32N. He reports that the Village is interested in securing this passage for pedestrians. The actual title to this property needs to be determined absolutely, however, and the public records are not immediately conclusive. What ought to be a simple title search rests on looking through file folders of correspondence and related matters. Mr. Eriole explained that the Village Board has been diligent and that we are likely "on our way to good news, within 10 days." He also said that if a landowner abutting this right-of-way believes he can adversely possess the property, the case law on this kind of matter makes it clear that it is actually the Village's property. You cannot adversely possess publicly-owned land unless the public facility is being handled like private property (e.g., selling it for a profit). In this case, the right-of-way will be used for a public benefit.
7. **Clearing snow and ice from sidewalks.** Jackie and Matt suggested inviting Town Building Inspector Stacey Delarede to the next meeting. Alan suggested that Jackie and Matt meet with the Village Building Inspector in her office. At a recent Village Board workshop meeting, Jason suggested that the village ought to be clearing sidewalks for pedestrians, in the same way that it clears roads for cars. Alan reported on a recent letter from the Village Building Department. The letter reminded businesses and property owners of some of their responsibilities including pruning of vegetation to keep sidewalks clear. The letter, however, did not mention anything about clearing snow."
8. **Wilmorite Project (SUNY New Paltz campus extension) / college planning for bikes.** (Kevin Caskey / Dan Guenther). Shelved.
9. **New Paltz bike-ped survey.** (Jackie Andrews, Justin Dates) . The main issue at the moment remains the survey's deployment. Using student interns was discussed. Could they go door to door? Jackie will prepare a brief description for Ariana forwarding to college intern office.
10. **Movin' Green Day.** Alan Stout reported that Ann and Dan Guenther made high-energy preparations but met with a low turn-out. Alan repaired quite a number of bikes.
11. **2012 Budget.** Bill reported that Toni will request \$900 for the committee in the 2012 budget, the same as 2011.
12. **Bike-ped display for expo's.** (Bill). Shelved.

New Business

1. **John Forester-bicycle activists exchange from the 90's.** Two weeks before the meeting, Bill shared a printed exchange between bike advocate John Forester and other pro-bicycling advocates dating from the earlier nineties. One person at the table observed that the Complete Streets concerns supersede this twenty-year-old exchange. Discussion broke off at that point.
2. **Bike-safety video.** Toni has said there's enough money in the public-access budget to underwrite a bike-safety video. The project needs to be in the bag by 12/31. Bill's position is that we're better off finding one or two videos (e.g., PSA's) that had already been produced that are likely of higher quality than we could make ourselves in a brief period of time. Bill is researching this.
3. **Committee projects, committee energy.** Some notes follow:
 - a. The committee is too unfocused. We need one or two projects.
 - b. S. Putt is at the top of the TIC list. Why hasn't the citizens' committee been created?
 - c. Eat to Ride / Ride to Eat has become a yearly focus for the committee, bringing us together and of great potential to New Paltz as a bicycling community and for local restaurants.
 - d. We ought to incorporate a Bike to Work Day for Bike Month 2012.
 - e. We should meet monthly, skipping December and the summer, in order to maintain momentum. Bill will write to the committee to discuss adopting this policy.

Next Meeting –January 10, 2012, Town Hall ("in the Pit")

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

