

Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
Minutes – March 20, 2012
At Town Hall
7:00 – 9:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

Present:

Town:

Clark Peaslee
Alan Stout
Bill Weinstein

Village:

Justin Dates
Matthew Flusser
Judy Mage (left meeting early to attend Wallkill Valley Rail Trail as committee liaison)

Town Liaison:

Kevin Barry

Visitors:

Dawn Elliott
Shirley Warren

Absent:

SUNY:

Kevin Caskey

Town:

Jackie Andrews

Village Liaison:

Ariana Basco

Announcements

- The Village rep position remains open. Haden Minivie's application is before the Village board.
- The committee welcomed new Town Liaison Kevin Barry.

Public Input

Old Business

1. Bicycle Parking at Thruway Park & Ride. Bill reported that there is nothing new to report about this item.
[NOTE: Several days after the meeting, Daniel Coots from NYSDOT wrote to say that new plans are underway, for a sheltered bike rack rather than the bikelockers that had been discussed earlier.]
2. Highland Rail Trail / Wallkill Valley Rail Trail link. Judy Mage reported that the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail is interested in pursuing the project and that they were reporting out plans at this evening's meeting. Judy left the bike-ped meeting early so she attend the WVRT meeting to learn specifics and report back to us.
3. South Putt project. Justin Dates, committee liaison to the promised local planning group to be formed in support of this project, told the committee that he has not recently heard from Andrew Emmerich, the Ulster County engineer who has a lead role in the South Putt re-engineering. Kevin Barry offered to visit Mr. Emmerich with Justin. The committee supported this plan.
4. Route 32N at BOCES. (Ariana Basco) Alan Stout reported that Rich Cusanno has removed the boat from the right of way. Alan, Judy Mage and Charlie West recently spent a couple of hours there, cutting weeds,

arranging rocks to make a tidier, more clearly marked path, and generally sprucing up the area. Alan has seen people using it already. Alan and Judy will work together to write a press release for an official opening and ribbon-cutting.

5. Clearing snow and ice from sidewalks. Jackie, Matt, and Bill met with Village Building Inspector Kathy Moniz on 3/5/12. Following is a summary from Jackie's notes:
 - a. Bill promised to send Kathy a copy of the 2008 Sidewalk Master Plan, which is probably still up-to-date, despite the passage of time.
 - b. Kathy told the committee that the Village has a workable procedure for monitoring sidewalks that need attention after plowing and for notifying property owners. The village code requires property owners to clear property expeditiously and can bill them for clearing done by village, and does bill them.
 - c. Kathy is out early with her assistant after a snowfall, inspecting the village for potential violations. (Some committee members expressed skepticism that the village can be covered adequately on this basis.)
 - d. Kathy meets with local downtown business owners on a regular basis. She reminds them of the need to clear sidewalks.
 - e. On her own time, Kathy personally clears the sidewalks, etc. for elderly residents who are not able to do so for themselves.
 - f. Village code for clearing snow also applies to clearing poison ivy and vegetation during the warm seasons.
 - g. Kathy agreed that the committee could help be sending seasonal letters to the editor reminding property owners to clear sidewalks of snow or vegetation would be useful. We could include her office phone number, 255-3055.

Alan Stout suggested a weekly report from the committee as a way of helping to focus Kathy's efforts. The committee also wondered whether there was a village ordinance concerning the removal of snow from parking lots. During one recent storm, the snow cleared from the parking lot with Taco Shack and the beer distributor was piled on the Main Street sidewalk.
6. New Paltz bike-ped survey. (Jackie Andrews, Justin Dates) The committee discussed how best to deploy the bike-ped survey. Topics included the use of ballot boxes, which would cost about \$6/box, as opposed to using other, free boxes, and which would be the best locations for placement. The committee did not reach consensus about these key issues and the topic will be carried over to next month's meeting.
7. New Paltz Stop Distracted Driving update. (Bill) The Community Partnership for a Safer New Paltz will again attempt to present safe-driving, anti-drug message at the high school. Judy Reichler will speak about distracted driving.
8. Snow removal volunteers (Bill). Neither the high school nor the college is ready to participate, for various reasons. The Dutch Reformed Church and the Reconstructionist Synagogue of New Paltz expressed interest in helping with the program. Ariana has mentioned that if the village hires an assistant in the clerk's office, s/he might serve as a person to call if someone needs a walk shoveled.
9. Anticipating Bike Month: at to Ride! / Ride to Eat! Bill will get the info to the committee.

New Business

1. Judy Mage reports that Main Street crosswalk signs have not been placed back on the road since their winter sojourn in the Department of Public Works garage. She will write to Ariana to ask her to speak to the village crew.
2. Kevin Barry observed that a better use for recreation funds associated with local development would be to use them to pay for bicycle infrastructure. Currently, monies allotted for recreation are usually dedicated to obtaining land that the developer has no use for anyway. Kevin observed that Burlington VT is a model for a community with networked bicycle paths. Kevin will speak to Susan Zimet about this issue.
3. Kevin Barry raised the issue of the college pedestrian traffic along South Chestnut / Route 208 near Hawk Drive and the VFW hall. There is no sidewalk there. College students walking to and from town are often invisible to motor traffic. The committee briefed him on the controversies concerning which entity would fund needed sidewalks. Up to now, neither the village, the college nor DOT wishes to pay for these changes. Kevin said he would explore this with the college. There is consensus among committee members that this is a dangerous place to walk and that a sidewalk is needed.

4. Bill briefed Kevin on the history of a proposed bike-ped path from the college to Crosscreek. It would be tremendous community amenity, opening New Paltz south of the college (Harvest Hills, Jansen Road, Sarafian Road, DuBois Road) to bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The property is part of the Moriello family's Harvest Hills Development and is still owned by the Moriellos. Kevin said one way to make this happen would be to get a license from the Moriellos to permit the construction of the path. If the project is successful, the license could mature into an actual easement. Alan Stout said he'd be interested in walking the area with Bill.
5. Dawn Elliott spoke about a proposed Tweed Run for New Paltz, an event where people dress in antique clothes and enjoy biking together. The ride could start at Water Street Market, return on Huguenot Street, end up at the Huguenot houses and fort. Rail Trail would be happy to support event. Needs support from Village. Hug Street would like to collect a fee for the use of its lawn. Dawn hopes that they might be content with selling refreshments and other items. The key for Historic Huguenot Street is for the income to "exceed their staffing time cost." In other words, they would charge the ride a fee for use of their lawn. Bill will ask the Village for permission to use Rail Trail. Dawn can recruit participants via social media. Bike-shop and other sponsorship might help pay for the event.

Adjourned at 8:45.

Next meeting –April 17, 2012, Village Hall