

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee**  
**Minutes–February 11, 2013**  
**At Village Hall**  
**7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**7:16**

**Present**

Jackie Andrews, Town rep  
Peter Kaufman, SUNY rep  
Judy Mage, Village rep  
Bill Weinstein, Town rep

Ariana Basco, Village liaison  
Curt Lavalla, Village planner

**Absent:**

Justin Dates, Village rep  
Clark Peaslee, Town rep  
Alan Stout, Town rep

Jeff Logan, Town liaison

**Announcements**

- We still have two Village rep vacancies

**Public Comment**

- None.

**Approval of January minutes. YES**

**Old Business**

1. **Bicycle Parking at Thruway Park & Ride.** NYSDOT Region 8 bike coordinator Lisa Mondello promises to keep on top of the situation. She wrote to Bill to say that, in any event, nothing can take place while the ground is frozen.
2. **South Putt project: funding, local advisory committee.** The local advisory committee will meet for the first time a week in about a week's time, on Friday, February 2, at a meeting of principals chaired by Ulster County engineer Andrew Emerich. Ariana thanked Curt for his outreach to Ulster County. Judy Mage suggested sending a copy of the recent letter to the editor in the NP Times from two high school students concerning the need for safer bike-ped amenities on South Putt..
3. **Woodland Pond/Lent Farms connector.** Curt Lavalla reported that this issue was discussed at the last two meetings of the Village Planning Board. Curt and the Code Enforcement Officer were asked to take whatever action was needed to remove the gate there. But gate is in the Town! Curt added that gate is temporary; when the road is declared to be engineered properly, the gate will be removed. Curt also mentioned that Lent residents interested in putting a better, more inviting surface on the road, and in fact welcome bike-ped traffic. They don't want motor vehicles, primarily delivery trucks and other commercial traffic. Motor traffic would present an unusual safety hazard because there is no traffic enforcement on this curvy road, and sometimes pedestrians walk two or three abreast there.
4. **Cherry Hill neighborhood (Joalyn Road)/"The Ridge" apartments (Route 32) connector.** Bill reported on his phone discussion with Ridge Apartments owner George Sifre. Bill and Mr. Sifre agreed to speak again in March about obstacles, if any, to removing the barrier at the Cherry Hill end of his development to permit easier bike-ped access. Curt provided information concerning the state code about how to facilitate public recreational use of his private property. Judy Mage was already familiar with these legalities and briefed the meeting about them.

5. **Safe Routes to School technical assistance grant.** Curt Lavalla says that the first meeting for this grant is due to be scheduled in February so that this preliminary project could be finished by June, in time for next round of SRTS funding.
6. **Chestnut Street reconstruction at the culvert at Stewart's: letter to the Town and Village.** Judy Mage drafted a letter about the committee's concerns. The committee endorsed the letter and has asked Bill to send it to local municipal and state officials, as well as to the village and town boards for their own endorsement and communication with the same officials.
7. **Village and Town responses to bike-ped resolution re NYSDOT 2-year capital plan. Update.** Ariana told the committee that Mayor West had sent the letter to the governor. It is not clear if other officials were copied. Apparently, Supervisor Zimet has not yet sent the letter, although the town board endorsed the letter just before the new year. Bill sent the letter to Governor Cuomo, NYSDOT Commissioner Joan McDonald, the NYSDOT Chief Financial Officer, State Senator Bonacic, State Assemblyman Cahill, and Ulster County Executive Mike Hein. Only Senator Bonacic responded, by writing directly to NYSDOT Commission McDonald to apprise her of our concerns. Bill read the senator's letter to the committee and will write a thank-you to the senator.  
[NOTE: Several days after this meeting, Susan Zimet wrote to Bill to inform him that the letter had gone out to all local officials, as well as to all Ulster County supervisors and mayors.]
8. **Draft of Village North Chestnut Gateway plan.** Curt and committee member Justin Dates met to discuss the North Chestnut Gateway Plan. Justin is a LEED-certified landscape architect who works for a planning consultancy in Newburgh. Justin has volunteered his services to aid in planning the Gateway. Justin has also agree to advise the Village about building the concept of sustainable construction into the Village code. Curt and Ariana have had two meetings with the Downtown Business Association and property owners about the Gateway plan.
9. **Preliminary bike-ped survey results. Where do we go from here?** By consensus, the committee agreed that Bill should draft a letter to the editor that uses the narrative Jackie Andrews wrote in summarizing survey outcomes. The letter will emphasize the importance to the community of improvements to the bike-ped infrastructure. Bill will also issue a report on behalf of the committee to the municipal governments and newspapers.
  - a. Peter Kaufman will research the ways in which biking and walking provide benefits to the community and will look for a bulleted list of how bikeability-walkability benefits communities.
  - b. During this discussion, Curt mentioned Jeff Speck's *Walkable City*, a recent book whose thesis entails the importance of walkable, bikeable transportation for the health and quality of life of communities. Peter Kaufman will approach the Inquiring Minds bookstore about bringing Mr. Speck in to read from his book. (Mr. Speck is currently on an national book tour.) . Peter will look for bulleted list of how bikeability-walkability benefits communities.
10. **Shirley Warren's query re crosswalks on HWDuB.** Judy Mage writing petition with Mulberry Square resident Sheyda. The petition may be circulating at this time. Bill recommended presenting the petition to the Town and Village boards, the Village Department of Public Works and the Town Highway Supervisor.
11. **Requesting Town and Village to request that the proposed Highland-Wallkill Valley rail trail link be placed on the Ulster County TIP.** By consensus, the committee agreed to present this idea to the Town and Village boards.
12. **Icy, snowy sidewalks.** Curt Lavalla discussed at length the efforts he and his staff are making to see that sidewalks are properly cleared. Some of the problem is due to lack of effort on the part of property owners; some is due to cleared sidewalks being plowed under by road-cleaning plows, an old problem in New Paltz.

#### **New Business**

1. Inviting John Shupe of SUNY New Paltz to the next meeting. By consensus, the committee agreed to invite Mr. Shupe, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management, to the next meeting to discuss bike-ped issues relating to the proposed Park Point project. Mr. Shupe has been directly involved in the planning for this Park Point. Jackie Andrews will relay the invitation to him. Peter Kaufman will draw up a list of five discussion topics to bring to the table.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.**

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Monday, March 11, 2013, 7:00 pm, at Village Hall.

