

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Announcements

- We still have two Village rep vacancies

Public Comment

- .None.

Approval of February minutes.

Old Business

1. **Bicycle Parking at Thruway Park & Ride.**
2. **South Putt project:** Justin Dates and Alan Stout reported on the first meeting with Ulster County and the local advisory committee. Justin explained that the project will involve rehabbing the road and creating six-foot shoulders. It will not include a shared-use path on one side. Because planning for projects like this must consider alternatives, the stated alternatives will be “no improvement” or four-foot shoulders, not the separated path. Alan was of the opinion that eight-foot shoulders would be optimal and six-foot only the minimum. Both Alan and Justin feel that it’s likely to be six feet. The next meeting will be in April or May. There will also be a public meeting. Alan will draft a letter from the committee recommending six-foot shoulders and other items.
3. **Woodland Pond/Lent Farms connector.** No new developments. The road itself has yet to be dedicated. Residents in Lent Farms would be happy with a bike-ped connector.
4. **Cherry Hill neighborhood (Joalyn Road)/“The Ridge” apartments (Route 32) connector.** No new developments.
5. **Safe Routes to School technical assistance grant.** Curt Lavalla provided an update. Ulster County’s Brian Slack has told him the project is moving forward.
6. **Chestnut Street reconstruction at the culvert at Stewart’s: letter to the Town and Village.** Bill has not sent the letter that Judy Mage drafted. Judy wondered whether it’s too late at this point.
7. **Village and Town responses to bike-ped resolution re NYSDOT 2-year capital plan. Update.** Bill described his outreach to elected officials (Cahill, Bonacic) but says he has not received an answer. Senator Bonacic contacted the governor twice for follow-up. Ariana confirmed that the letter went out from Village.
8. **Preliminary bike-ped survey results.** Bill’s was not able to rewrite the narrative report and hopes to have it done prior to the next meeting.
9. **Shirley Warren’s query re crosswalks on HWDuB.** Bill said he would contact Sheyda at Mulberry Square for an electronic copy of her letter to Mulberry Square residents.
10. **Requesting Town and Village to request that the proposed Highland-Walkkill Valley rail trail link be placed on the Ulster County TIP.** Bill’s noted that the Transportation Implementation Committee is deeply interested in this link but that the TIC remains committed to seeing the fulfillment of projects prioritized in the Transportation and Land Use Study before new ones are put on the docket.
11. **Icy, snowy sidewalks.** Curt Lavalla provided a lengthy and detailed report of the Village’s efforts to move snow (or have it moved) after storms.. Curt and Ariana met with DPW and Village treasurer Nancy Branco to learn whether it is feasible to assess a modest tax on Village residents for the Village to relieve residents of the burden by clearing sidewalks. The Village currently clears 2400 linear feet of sidewalk. The only really feasible way to do it would be to hire more people or contract out. Ariana hopes to soon find out what the numbers are. The Village is now drafting an RFP to contract out for snow removal.

New Business

1. **John Shupe of SUNY New Paltz, discussing bikeability-walkability issues for Park Point.**
John Shupe, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, attended the meeting to speak about Park Point. These are some of the highlights of the discussion:

- When asked why he came to the meeting, Mr. Shupe replied that he wanted to do his share to create an open dialog between the college and the bike-ped committee. The college would like to let the committee know what it's doing, stating, "We think we're good neighbors. If you have questions, we'd like to get them. We won't sugarcoat the responses."
- The campus sidewalks currently have a minimum width of six feet. Park Point will match this because the college wants it to look and feel like part of campus. There are also primary sidewalk measuring 20 feet, secondary sidewalks measuring ten feet with an asphalt soldier course, and tertiary, which have the aforementioned six-foot width, paved in asphalt.
- The connection between campus and Park Point will not be "super convenient" for people who want to use cars. This is designed on purpose. The school wants people to walk and take their bikes.
- Mohonk Walk was to be extended this summer but no longer. The new science building and Mohonk Walk are pushed into the next fiscal year. Peter Kaufman observed that the existing Mohonk Walk Curb cutout isn't a cutout but a curb. Mr. Shupe replied that it's low enough for emergency vehicles and that DOT doesn't allow handicapped curbcuts onto a road like that.
- Peter Kaufman referred to a college in the Western U.S. where the president, an avid cyclist, convinced Trek bicycles to give freshman students free bicycles if they didn't bring car on campus. John said the school would support that, at least in theory.
- Regarding bicycle access to the campus from Southside, which blocks motor-vehicle traffic, Mr. Shupe said that that the college's neighbors are happy with the current arrangement and that bikes have all the access they need from the sidewalk running east-west on the south side of Southside.
- Mr. Shupe said that the college has invested a great deal of time and money in pedestrian infrastructure. In the last three years: two miles of roads and over 7 miles of sidewalks have been repaved or installed. 70-75% of sidewalks have been repaved in last 3 years. The college is also about to undertake landscaping improvements relating on its border with houses that face Route 208/Chestnut.

In addition to learning about the college's plans for connecting to the proposed Park Point project, and about campus bike-ped developments in general, the committee brought several issues to the table.

- a) **Hawk Hill – Crosscreek connection to the college.** Mr. Shupe explained that these properties belong to the Moriello family and a request for a connection is best made to them.
 - b) **Lack of sidewalks on South Chestnut from Southside to Hawk Drive.** Mr. Shupe believes that the majority of traffic along South Chestnut along this pedestrian corridor is from students living off-campus. Thus, providing sidewalks would be out of the scope of a college project. In effect, it's the public who is using this corridor. He said he would consider using college interns to tally the number of students coming from dorms at the south end of campus who use Chestnut and not the campus paths to get to downtown. He also said he would look into the feasibility of upgrading the path running parallel to Chestnut, beginning at the turfed athletic field just north of Hawk Drive. Currently this path is not lit and does not extend to Hawk Drive itself; he seemed open to looking into bringing the path all the way to the road.
2. **-Month 2013.**
- a) **Inviting Jeff Speck?** Ariana said that the SUNY New Paltz: Environmental Task Force is likely to fund the invitation. Peter Kaufman will contact Speck.
 - b) **No Eat to Ride this year?** Bill feels that Eat To Ride is not worth the time and energy. The committee did not express opposition to this. Bill suggested a group bike ride around New Paltz instead. The committee wondered whether the Town could help insure the event.
3. **3/21 Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association Annual Meeting. Anyone to represent us?** Judy Mage said that Ulster County Executive Mike Hein is slated to speak at the WVRTA annual meeting and that it would be important for the committee to be represented. (N.B., Bill eventually went to the meeting and memooed the committee afterwards.)

The meeting adjourned 9:13.

The next meeting will be at Village Hall, Monday, 4/8/13.