

Complete Streets Committee – Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Youth, Parks, & Rec Conf. Room

Attendees:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Dan Blamowski	Erie County – DPW
David Stinner	USitek – Resident
Jim Jones	Technical Support - Town Engineer
Peter de Pagter	Handlebars Cycle Co.
Chris Bushover	Handlebars Cycle Co.
Greg Szewczyk	NYSDOT
Jim Cuzzo	NYSDOT
Lt. Nicholas Bado	Town Police Department
Kathleen Johnson	Village of Kenmore
Jim Hartz	Town Planning and Development
Fred Frank	Planning Board
Mike Kaiser	Town Technical Support
Bill Swanson	Town Highway Department
Peter Breitnauer	Village Chief of Police
T.J. Phillips	Village Police
Bill Phillips	Village Police
Ken Swanekamp	Planning Board

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

There were no additions or deletions made to the previous meeting minutes. Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2015 Meeting was moved by Jim Jones, seconded by David Stinner.

Voting: All Ayes. 0 Nays

Motion Approved.

2. Draft Complete Streets Policy – Suggested changes and discussion

Kathleen Johnson, Village Clerk Treasurer, mentioned that there were several errors in the UB Bicycle Master Plan that was presented to the Town in December. The cross-section of Delaware Avenue in the Village was an incorrect width. Jim Jones mentioned that the students also had a few other cross sections that were incorrect. The Village of Kenmore Chief of Police, Peter Breitnauer, asked if the student team did any outreach to the Village Officials to gather information. They are proposing to take out the turning lane on Delaware Avenue, and that can't happen. He mentioned that the property damage accidents have increased since the redesign of the road in 2013. Jim Hartz said that the Town was facilitating the student study for the class of UB students to generate discussion and ideas for consideration, we will provide a written disclaimer on the Town's website to let the public know that the UB Plan is a student product only.

3. Identifying a Safe and Accessible Complete Streets Network

Greg Szewczyk said that in the UB Plan there were several areas along Sheridan Drive that had a center median that is not there now and other areas where they show the center median removed where it actually exists. It was very confusing without a discussion of an implementation of the design alternatives. Jim Jones mentioned that the Town may consider having their own design guidelines developed with the help of a design professional. Greg also mentioned that the accident data from Sheridan Drive only points to bicyclist error versus a fault in the road's design.

Jim Jones mentioned that the Committee may have to request that the Town Board allocate some resources to pursue the development of a design manual. Fred Frank said that there is a website called Street Mix that allows you to design your own corridor. There are about 7 or 8 different bicycle facilities that can be considered.

Jim Hartz mentioned that the UB Plan mostly identified State and County Roadways in the Plan for including complete street's amenities. The Committee may want to consider including some local streets to the local network to allow for safer and more accessible interconnections to the larger network. The idea is to lay out a preferred network that makes sense and then identify the areas where there are gaps in facilities. Then the Town can prioritize some projects in the future.

The Town will maintain an editable map that residents and business owners can identify missing amenities. Fred Frank said that the Town's residential streets are vastly underserved without any bicycle facilities now, and that there is an opportunity to identify some of the longer local roadways that parallel the busier streets to provide bicycle boulevards. Fred said that the major roadways will capture the 5% of "fearless" riders, but the majority of other bikers may be more inclined on lower volume roadways that parallel those busier streets.

Jim Cuozzo said that he agrees that the Town needs to focus on the local collector streets rather than Sheridan Drive to make sure the public has safe access to those other areas. He would like to see a local network that connects to local parks and schools.

Jim Hartz asked any committee members with suggestions to provide comments to his office before the next meeting, so that he can culminate a larger map of the local network. We will also try to identify all of the non-compliant ADA areas along the network, to provide some prioritization for local projects. Jim Jones said that the Town has another intern beginning this Spring that will continue a GIS mapping project of the Town's sidewalks.

Greg Szewczyk mentioned that the GBNRTC tends to focus on roadways that they can contribute resources toward. Any comprehensive planning effort has to focus on local roads as an aspect of the overall vision.

Ken Swanekamp mentioned that if the Town can focus on the area between Military Road and Delaware Road, residents will be able to go from one end of Town to the other.

Jim Cuozzo mentioned that it would be good to see a map that included all of the bus stops and existing trails on it. Fred Frank would also like to see the AADT volumes listed on the roadways.

Peter Breitnauer asked what the preferred width of a protected bike lane is. Fred Frank mentioned that the minimum width is 5' with 7' width preferred. Some design guidelines also recommend including a buffer area to those widths for an extra level of comfort for bicyclists.

4. Webpage Design and Public Outreach in 2016

Jim Hartz mentioned that the website is currently up and stocked with some information and we will continue to add information to the site as the Committee moves forward.

Greg asked if there is any on-line interactive feature to provide residents a portal for leaving complaints on things such as glass in the road. Bill Swanson said he currently handles all the public's complaints through phone calls or email. Jim Hartz said that one of the goals would be to include an interactive on-line portal in the future to show areas in the network that have gaps or other issues.

5. Current and Proposed Projects

Most projects are on hold due to the weather. The Rails to Trails project is scheduled to be completed this spring and summer. The Parks and Recreation Department will be maintaining the facility for the Town. The Town will seek private "sponsors" to adopt portions of the trails for things such as garbage pickup and beautification.