

Town of Plattsburgh Complete Streets & Trails Steering Committee

Brief Meeting Notes from our Tuesday, August 28th Third Gathering

at Town Hall, 4:30 PM until 5:52 PM

Attending our gathering were: **Trevor Cole; Betsy Durkee; Bob Fuller; Jim King; Tim Palmer; A. Paul Scott; Tom Wood and Phil VonBargen.**

At our meeting we:

1. **Placed** our name on the attendance roster as part of accurately recording our attendance at this third meeting of our steering committee.
2. **De-briefed** each other on what we **observed**, what we **took note of** and what we **learned** during our July 31st 'field work' at **[1]** the intersection of Quarry Road & Tom Miller Road plus **[2]** the intersection of State Route 3 and Military Turnpike.
3. **Briefly refreshed** our collective memory on the **tasks ahead** for our steering committee:

A. Crafting a set of priority streets and sidewalks to promote Town Board attention, consideration and focus regarding:

1. Concept of 'Complete Streets' as part of advance planning for renovations, updating and improving our town's thoroughfares
2. Safety & Sustainability for our Town, which continues to grow and evolve even during challenging financial times
3. Sustaining our reputation and status as a quality, preferred community in Clinton County
4. Health benefits associated with expanded engagement with walking and biking day-to-day and from time-to-time
5. Economic development as a catalyst for advancing the interests of expanding complete streets and trails, over time
6. Environmental benefits to all of the above for the residents of our town, county, state, nation and planet

B. Inventorying of the Town's infrastructure with a 'complete streets' approach and focus in mind

C. Examining intersections as part of integrating longer-term planning with year-to-year project priorities across our township

D. Recommending signage for future updating & upgrading

E. Promoting State Department of Transportation partnerships with our town

F. Learning more about bike routes, bike lanes, bike paths and bikeway networks

G. Eventually discussing the prospect of community "Summit" events for year 2013 and 2014

4. **Learned** from Phil VonBargen regarding his recent correspondence with Lynn Godek, the New York State Department of Transportation's [NYSDOT] Regional Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator. The intent of engaging with that NYSDOT coordinator is to hopefully attract some NYSDOT attention to our steering committee's efforts and perhaps engage the coordinator's attendance to a future steering committee meeting and/or face-to-face engagement with Phil and Trevor of our Town Planning Department. Certainly the Town of Plattsburgh is fortunate to have a sidewalk system extending from the Saranac River Rt. 22B bridge all the way to the city of Plattsburgh – roughly four miles in length. Phil VonBargen is striving to engage the NYSDOT coordinator in conversation and examination of several intersections along the way that are particularly dangerous for pedestrian and bicyclists.
5. **Started** a discussion regarding which particular intersections along the way should be priorities for our engagement with the NYSDOT. One such intersection pointed out by the planning department is Exit 37 of I-87, the scene of a tragic bicycle fatality not quite two years ago. That intersection, along with various others, desperately needs attention as we are experiencing a fair amount of tourism in our region, and we are experiencing an increasing number of pedestrians who are lodging in the growing number of near-by hotels, who are walking to the restaurants in that part of our town.
6. **Commissioned** our Planning Department to strive for a September 2012 meeting between the NYSDOT Regional Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator and various members of our Planning Department and our steering committee. Ideally, that meeting would be on September 25th, the date of our next steering committee meeting. Our Planning Department will keep us posted on what date that NYSDOT coordinator would be available to meet and talk.
7. **Shared** some thoughts regarding **what we've valued so far** as members of the steering committee.
8. **Engaged** with Phil VonBargen regarding which members of our steering committee will help represent the Town of Plattsburgh's planning department at the September 18th Walk-Bike Symposium [Governor's Traffic Safety Committee] Several steering committee members volunteered to be part of the contingent, and we'll receive a briefing on that symposium at our September 2012 steering committee meeting.
9. **Learned** that our Planning Department can and will provide steering committee members with **digital maps of town roads**, to help us in future discussions. Those maps make clear which roads within our township are state, town county roads or city-owned roadways.
10. **Established** Tuesday **September 25th** as our next meeting date. Our yet-to-be-scheduled **October meeting** will include focus on generating a preliminary draft list of steering committee recommendations for the Town Board to consider, based on our summer/fall 2012 steering committee discussions. At our August 28th meeting we discussed the likelihood that one of our recommendations will be that the Town Board budget an amount of monies for improvements & projects associated with enhancing and improving our town's system of roads and sidewalks.
11. **Agreed** that our Planning Department will strive to set a date and time for a meeting with the NYSDOT Regional Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator. We'll receive an update on that matter at some point, after a meeting date is set.

12. **Received thanks** for our service this summer on the steering committee, and **adjourned** at 5:52 PM until our next meeting, **September 25th**.

Respectfully submitted by A. Paul Scott, Chairperson