

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting

March 18, 2022

Attendees: (*in-person*) Edie Dondero (Chair), Dennis Roberts, Kathy Wood, Bob Shields; (*on phone*) Beth Rosso, Rob Herb

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dondero at 1:05 PM.

The minutes of the December 3, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair Dondero reported that at the February Town Council meeting, two of the Committee's three recommendations were approved: the placement of pedestrian directional stencils on select roadways; and the use of "Walk facing traffic, Bike with traffic" signage on existing sign posts on select streets and "instructional signage" at the four Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) on Coastal Highway. The vote on the third recommendation regarding speed limits was delayed until Council receives verification from counsel that a 15mph limit is enforceable under Delaware law.

Chair Dondero met with Public Works staff to survey town roads for potential siting of both stencils and signs. The following streets were recommended for stencils: Black Gum, Cattail, Tamarack, Canal, Evergreen (between intersection with Russell to Rt 1), Anchorage, Bayshore, and York Road. Public Works has ordered a stencil with the "walking man" and the text, "Walk Facing Traffic." It was recommended that signs be erected on existing posts along the following roads: Black Gum, Cattail, Tamarack/Canal intersection, Evergreen, Anchorage, and Bayshore. The Committee reviewed these locations and agreed with all sites proposed.

Mr. Shields presented an alternative to the "instructional signage" on the crosswalk light poles. He showed a photograph from Dewey Beach where text was stenciled directly onto the roadway at the edge of the crosswalks. Chair Dondero will share this image with Public Works and see which option is feasible. Mr. Shields also requested a "High Pedestrian Activity" sign (like those on Black Gum and Evergreen) be placed at the entrance to Sandpiper Village to warn cars coming onto Sea Side Drive of the presence of pedestrians and kids on bikes. Chair Dondero will talk with Public Works about this.

In discussing the Committee's recommendations at their February meeting, members of the Town Council suggested that the Committee recommend streets in town that might benefit from the placement of temporary or permanent speed bumps. Chair Dondero presented a map of the town that showed the location of existing speed bumps. After discussion, it was determined that the following streets would be recommended: Canal Drive, S. Anchorage, Bayshore Drive, Peterson Drive, and May's Way. The Committee will recommend that the town install temporary speed bumps in these locations and leave them in place for several months, after which the town can assess their effectiveness and either move them to new locations or

budget for the placement of permanent speed bumps. Ms. Wood suggested that the Council survey the residents of each of the proposed streets to gauge whether or not they think speed on their street is an issue before placing the speed bumps. Chair Dondero will pass the suggestion along to Council.

Ms. Wood and Mr. Shields shared the research they have completed regarding educational outreach. There are many examples of successful and effective public education campaigns related to bike and pedestrian safety conducted by other towns, including Ocean City, MD, and examples of safety-related infrastructure from towns including Dewey Beach. The Committee agreed with Ms. Wood's recommendation that it seek guidance from Council on how large or small of an effort the town wishes to make on safety issues, as creating an effective campaign with require resources, funding, and the support of Town Council and staff.

Chair Dondero shared two flyers she found online from the City of Roanoke, VA that aim to educate pedestrians and drivers on the rules for using crosswalks with RFFBs. All agreed that these would be great to have for South Bethany; Chair Dondero will see about having the flyers redesigned as appropriate.

The date of July 16th was tentatively chosen for holding a Bicycle Safety event geared toward kids. Chair Dondero reported that Chief Lovins and the SBPD are fully on-board and enthusiastic about participating. It was agreed that having the Bethany Beach Fire Company participate would be a bonus, particularly if they bring a fire truck. Messrs. Herb and Shields both volunteered to help with planning and coordination and Mr. Roberts offered to reach out to local bike shops. Chair Dondero will clear the date with the Town staff, SBPD and BBVFC and then planning of details will get underway.

The date of the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2022 at 1pm. [UPDATE: Town Hall is not available on this date and an alternative will be selected.]

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm.