

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/13/2025

Time: 2:00PM - 3:05 PM

Location: South Bethany Beach Town Hall and Via Zoom

Chair: Robert Shields (Chair called meeting to order at 2pm sharp)

ATTENDEES

Robert Shields, Beth Rosso (Via Zoom), Kathy Wood, Ed Kelchner, Rob Herb, Mark O'Brien and Dennis Roberts

ABSENT: All Present

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item #1: Approval of Meeting Minutes 9-25

Details: Minutes reviewed and approved. Street markings approved and schedule to be determined.

Item #2: Public comment. There was no public comment.

Item #3: Feedback from Town Council meeting on 10-24

Details: 15 MPH speed limit for all of South Bethany was recommended to Town Council and was denied. A study is required by the State to modify the Delaware requirement for towns to have 25 MPH speed limits. The Chief of Police will supply hard data to the Council at a later date. We decided that data developed during the warm season would provide a truer picture of the traffic. Committee Members requested to view the data / report submitted by Chief Lovins to authorize the three areas in Town with 15 MPH speed limits (i.e. Cat Hill, Evergreen and Canal Drive). Committee members were encouraged to attend future Town Council meetings and make their voices heard.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item #1: Motorized Scooter Discussion

Details: Notes were provided from the Bethany Beach PBSC meeting which Bob attended. It was discussed that State law only permits us to enforce existing requirements like speed limits, helmets, adult supervision and specified markings. Motorized scooters are treated in law as very similar to E-Bikes. Ocean City and Bethany Beach have seen a significant uptick with scooter violations from the period of summer 2024 to Summer 2025.

Item #2: Bethany Beach Crosswalk Discussion

Details: We discussed the fact that Bethany Beach is adding more crosswalks on Rte 26 by the WAWA and Bethany Diner. Pointed out that we could recommend additional

or modified crossings. SBB has approximately 13 crosswalks on Coastal Highway. It was discussed that the addition of more crosswalks may create a false sense of security for the user. Discussion ensued regarding the addition of more flashing lights as well as more or enhanced signage. The topic was brought up about beach towns and in particular SBB, Bethany and Fenwick working together in the future on projects that involve the State. Bob pointed out that the Association of Coastal Towns was created to do that, but that it is effectively defunct now.

Item #3: Stop Sign Enhancements

Details: During the summer months the stop sign at Canal leaving town hall is in a heavy traffic area where rolling through the stop sign is a frequent occurrence. A red flashing light was recommended due to the heavy traffic. Dennis Roberts has suggested parking a patrol car as a deterrent, but the Chief is reluctant to do so as they are valuable assets and easily vandalized. Consider the same flashing light for the stop sign at the end of South Anchorage heading North for the same reason. It was suggested that the new stop bars may help which are already approved. It was decided that we will assist Chief Lovins in developing a shopping list to submit for budgeting purposes by the end of January 2026. It was also recommended that the committee members walk or drive the town for discovery purposes.

Item #4: Obscured Bike Paths

Details: Important to keep pine needles off of bike paths. Pedestrians and bike riders tend to walk or ride in the road if the paths are covered. Chair pointed out that keeping streets clean was a real focus of the PW Manager — both for storm drainage and safety purposes.

Item #5: Enforcement Priorities

Details: Moved this discussion to the committee's January meeting when the Chief of Police is present.

Item #6: Off Season Bicycle and Pedestrian Hazards

Details: Strong enforcement of current rules was more possible and recommended as the population is smaller in the off season. Also the early onset of darkness caused by the reversion to Standard Time does increase hazards to pedestrians and cyclists at dusk. Committee members want to add to the January meeting a discussion about the pedestrian path on the South side of Rte 1.