Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/08/2026
Time: 11:00 am to 12:05 pm
Location: South Bethany Beach Town Hall
Facilitator: Robert Shields (Facilitator called meeting to order)

ATTENDEES

Robert Shields, Kathy Wood, Ed Kelchner, Mark O'Brien, Dennis Roberts, Rob Herb, Chief Lovins

ABSENT

Richard Braida, Rob Herb

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item #1: Approval of Meeting Minutes 09/24/2026
Details: Approved all in Favor.

Item #2: Public Comment (3- minutes limit per speaker)
Details: No Public Comments with two online zoom listeners

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3: Discuss implementation of the Grab-a-Flag project
Details: Materials have been secured to install the cylinders, posts and flags at the two pilot project sites. The sites are located at the pedestrian crossings on the East and West sides of Anchorage Dr and Bayshore Drive. Committee chair Bob Shields and Committee member Mark O'Brien completed the initial installation on the West side of Anchorage Drive on 10/8 and the remaining installations are planned to occur on 10/09 under the supervision of Bob Shields.

Item #4: Planning video introduction for the Grab-a-Flag project
Details: Reviewed videos from similar flag projects. The plan is to use the instructional copy content from similar projects and begin preparation for a short video hosted by Chief Lovins and Committee Chair Bob Shields. The video will be used to promote the new pedestrian safety project to the residents and the media.

Item #5: Discuss and lessons learned including new ideas to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Details: Kathy Wood introduced an idea to promote bicycle helmet safety in particular for children. The concept equips town police officers with ice cream cone free coupons to distribute to children who are seen wearing their helmets . The Committee agreed this would be a great way to reward and promote bicycle safety in South Bethany. Chief Lovins agreed and added this program has the additional benefit of building positive relationships with police, residents and our visitors. Committee member Mark O'Brien has volunteered to secure the free ice cream cones from 1901 Dough and Soft Swirl located in Middlesex.

Item #6: Discuss installation of new safety devices
Details: New safety devices are awaiting installation and completion is expected by mid November 2026. There are two digital signs to install and one whirly warning to be placed on the top of the stop sign at Canal and Russel.

Item#7: Discuss action items to achieve prior to Spring 2027
Details: Bob Shields will address the Town Council regarding our ongoing discussion of the hazards of the growing e-bike trend. It is recommended by the Committee to begin the development of a consortium with like committees in our neighboring beach towns including Rehoboth, Bethany and Fenwick Island. The goal is to share ideas, create cohesion when possible and perhaps hold a greater voice at the State Capitol regarding pedestrian issues.
The Committee recommends that fresh stenciling regarding safety on our roads be in place by Spring 2027. This includes pedestrian stencils located on all town streets instructing people to walk against traffic and fresh painted bars at every stop sign in town. Bob has agreed to engage in a ride-a-long with the Chief to review overgrown shrubbery issues around the town that obstruct drivers and pedestrian views alike.

Item#8: An important word from the Chief
Details: The Chief reports that traffic tickets distributed by his force are up from less than 1,000 for the 12 month period ending in October 2025 to over 1,500 for the 12 month period ending on October 8 2026. These increases seem to place an exclamation point on the increased population of lower Sussex County and the safety problems that will come along with this issue.

by: Mark O'Brien (Committee member)



Signature: _____
Date: 10/09/2026