

PBAC Minutes of meeting held Feb 27, 2020

PBAC Committee present: David Cohen, Tineke Thio, Dan Rappoport, Perry Jones, Deanna Stockton, Laurie Harmon, Philip Chao, Leslie Fabello,

Members of Public attending: Silvia Ascarelli, Dave Kimmel, and Dosier Hammond, Public Transit Advisory Comm. Chair and Affordable Housing Board Vice Chair

1. Approval of 1/30/2020 Minutes: Moved by Tineke Thio, seconded by Leslie Fabello. All in favor.

2. Deanna: Engineering update

Princeton had a couple of public meetings about Witherspoon Street, putting together all options and comments with a survey on the municipal website. There will be a QR code survey distributed to downtown merchants.

Working on sidewalks and pathways, to put out requests for bids.

Deanna is reaching out to Spanish speaking community as well. Is reaching out to Alpha and Omega Assembly of God; a good place to get in touch with Spanish speaking community as well? Trying to reach out to Senior Resource Center as well. Deanna understands that St. Paul's Catholic Church might be a good place to reach out to Spanish speaking population as well.

Attended Greater Mercer TMA meeting about Mercer County Trails Plan. They are willing to come to meetings to talk about the plan, to show the connected routes through Mercer County. Dinky rail line may eventually become a trail. Somerset and Montgomery Counties are also part of this effort. Plan expected to be adopted by Mercer County Freeholders next month (March). The municipalities will be expected to take the lead on implementing the proposed trails and connections.

Met with Lawrence Hopewell Trail (LHT) Association and Lawrence Township to look into a possible connection between Princeton and LHT. Maybe through Gallup neighborhood and Princeton Pike. An easement might be acquired for \$17,000. It was identified on a piece of residential property that is currently for

sale. Deanna is trying to move forward on that. If successful, it would connect Princeton to the LHT network of trails via a bridge to Buckingham Drive, in a zig zaggy but low stress way.

Attended micro mobility session at NJDOT last week. Speakers were from Hoboken, Mike Manzella, from Asbury Park, as well as Charles Brown, Research Specialist Voorhees Transportation Center and Adjunct Professor Bloustein School of Public Policy, speaking about micro mobility and equity. Micro-mobility is usually 2- or 3-wheeled, electric or people- powered. Part of presentation was about e-scooters, and Deanna was looking more closely at e-scooters for Princeton to resolve mobility issues. Deanna can forward micro-mobility materials and resources upon request. Discussion addressed potential users who don't have credit cards, as well as density maps to address transit. Zagster expected to launch program this summer to buy credits for e-scooters with cash, so that people without a bank account could still use e-scooters. Lots of good information from Zagster. Increased use of scooters over Uber and Lyft. City of Asbury Park uses Zagster and is doing "geo-fenced" parking areas for scooters, so that scooters are returned only to Zagster-designated parking areas. Biggest danger of e-scooters is on the first ride.

Mt Lucas, Cherry Hill Rd & Valley Road: In March, will be getting out to do additional traffic counts. Talked with Traffic Engineer, who hesitated to put in crosswalks at either Terhune Rd crossing Mt Lucas or Cherry Hill Rd. Will keep looking at traffic counts.

Hamilton/ Wiggins Street: Council passed an ordinance for WSP (consulting firm) to finish the corridor study.

[66 Mt. Lucas road](#), Princeton Professional Center -Tineke asked whether the three on-street parking spots on Mt. Lucas Road might be removed since the main tenant has left, and the building has its own parking lot. Deanna said she'd add it to the Public Safety agenda.

4. Affordable Housing : Dosier Hammond attended PBAC meeting to establish communication between and Public Transit Committees and PBAC.

Laurie Harmon said that for future affordable housing, would like for Pedestrian and Bike connectivity to be added to future developments.

David Cohen said that they are bringing that up with the developers, such as Avalon, and that there are a couple of opportunities in Planning process for

PBAC to have input. David thought that is the best way for PBAC to have input, and he would let PBAC know.

Dan Rappoport asked about bike parking for new affordable housing. David Cohen said that the municipality is working on making an ordinance for bike parking, so that there would be bike parking for any new site plans. PBAC's proposed draft ordinance has been passed to Municipal Attorney, who is preparing it in typical legal phrases. David hopes it may be passed by the time these development applications reach Planning Board. Said that Avalon developer is completely onboard with including bike parking. Dan Rappoport said that bike parking was a little haphazard at Copperwood apartments. David said he'll suggest new developers talk to Bob Hillier (developer of Copperwood.)

Princeton Future meeting Saturday at Public Library, to discuss future affordable housing; Franklin site. Also Franklin Ave parking lot on old Hospital site as a possible site for employee parking during the day. Owned by Avalon, but used as a public parking area.

5) Bike Map revisions:

Tineke has received a large pdf file from the cartographer with a draft of the bike map and wants help verifying draft map, and get all comments back to cartographer by March 15. Tineke divided up the map among PBAC members to check out and verify the map. Lisa is waiting to hear back from Mayor about the section about her. David said that since Mayor is not running again, maybe it would be better not to include.

6) Communications

A subcommittee has been formed to discuss how best to communicate our events and related bike and pedestrian topics. Laurie will run it and invited committee members to let her know if interested. Leslie and Mandy are main people working on this committee. The first report will be the list of bike and walk to school events for the spring, (included in minutes from January).

7) Events

March 7th NJ Bike Walk Coalition Summit at Mercer County Community College,

a full day event. David Cohen has gone to many of them, recommended it ,and said it was not to be missed. Jerry will be hosting a panel. Silvia said one or two East Coast Greenway people will be at the Bike Walk Summit.

May 16-17th- East Coast Greenway NYC-PHL fundraising ride, Lisa is talking with Debbie West (EC Greenway person) about connecting riders with the local merchants. 300 people have registered for the ride, and the goal is 500. Silvia said that they need some help reaching out to restaurants to try to address the dining needs of the riders who will be staying overnight in Princeton.

David Cohen said that Michelle Pirone Lambros would bring this up at the next Council meeting. There is the possibility of vouchers, and Silvia suggested that Debbie should talk to Michelle. David said that there is the possibility of some restaurants coming to the YMCA and serving food like the restaurants do for Princeton street festivals. Silvia said that people want to give business to the restaurants, and also maybe get some sponsorships from restaurants to help support the EC Greenway. There is also a need for volunteers. There may be a charge for volunteering for two days, in that volunteers will need to be housed. However, volunteers from Princeton won't need overnight accommodations. More will be discussed at NJ-East Coast Greenway meeting next Friday, March 6, Metuchen Library. Mentioned that there should be someone at Whitehead Rd crossing to help people onto the tow path crossing.

April 26th Communiversity, May 9th GreenFest- Bike Valet: Leslie Fabello will set up Signupgenius to staff bike parking for these events. Laurie reminded we would need volunteers for set up, valeting, and take down.

May 16th Wheels Rodeo, Also need volunteers for helmet fitting.

June 13th Ciclovía and Chasing George: Quaker Road closed for biking and walking, Historical Society of Princeton is doing organizing for Chasing George part, PBAC does organizing for Ciclovía part. Laurie hopes we can get a food truck for Ciclovía. Silvia said that she's working with Historical Society to help organize Chasing George ride. Silvia said that she recommends people doing the 9-mile Chasing George to take the train down to Trenton, in order to ride back. It's a good way to set up the one-way ride.

Fall Events: Mayors Ride, maybe another Ciclovía in town on Witherspoon Street. Tineke said that this would be a family friendly Ciclovía, Tineke talked to Lieutenant Geoff Maurer about possible street closures. Tineke proposed Palmer Square, and he said "not there." Lieutenant Geoff Maurer said that Witherspoon from Arts Council to Valley Road is the best place, and for streets

intersecting Witherspoon form a network that would enable people to get out, even on one-way streets, on that one day. Tineke said that she is envisioning a 4 hour road closure. Maybe a race for kids, maybe an obstacle course, or a “slow race.” Would have to be held on a Saturday. Tineke said that it will only happen if there is support from local merchants and neighbors. Laurie said that maybe we shouldn’t do a food truck, so that local restaurants on Witherspoon could be promoted. Silvia said that if traffic cones are needed to create obstacle courses, Daryl McMillan, West Windsor Bike Ped Alliance, would be the person to talk to about cones. Tineke is proposing to hold it on Saturday before or after September 22, World Car-Free Day. David recommended to work on it well in advance to nail down the dates, because of competing events. Maybe in place of the Mayor’s Ride. Dosier said that Witherspoon-Jackson neighborhood has regular meetings, and would be good to talk to them about this. Leslie mentioned Jazams, as someone else who may want to be involved. Tineke said she may ask Zoe Brooks to bring in her circus friends and unicyclists. Laurie asked Tineke to ask Zoe Brooks about coming to June Ciclovía with her circus troop. Tineke asked David Cohen to help her prioritize who to ask for support for this, and David said he would.

8. Bike Friendly Community Application: Application deadline in early fall. Laurie would split up sections of application among PBAC members. Lot of info needs to be filled out in the application. Once the link for the application is received the password could be shared, so that people can go in independently to work on the application. Laurie said that she’d work on getting deadline for this out to other people.

Other business:

Dan Rappoport: Started conversation at last meeting about traffic signs that are needed. Wants there to be a resolution to go to town Council for approval. His list :

- 1) Needs “Intersection Ahead” sign at Terhune Rd and Jefferson Rd. in the southbound direction, on Jefferson, approaching Terhune. David said that it is a high accident location and that people often speed on Jefferson.
- 2) ”Stop ahead” sign on Herrontown Road, approaching River Road. Deanna said there should be a yellow sign with double arrow on other side of this T as well.

3) On Mt Lucas Rd in the street addresses #600s, between Campbell Woods and Poor Farm Rd, there is a ditch alongside Mt Lucas. A guard rail would be appreciated.

4) Missing sign on Mt Lucas Rd before Poor Farm Road: Yellow diamond sign with a sideways "T"

Deanna said that she will bring these up at Traffic Safety meeting. Also that at Traffic and Transportation meeting Sgt. Murray said the most hazardous intersection is 206 and Ewing street. He wants to see a "No Left Turn" sign during rush hour.

10. Comments from Public:

Dosier Hammond; he's with Public Transit Committee and Affordable Housing Board. He said that we run a good meeting. Said that Princeton University had a really good session on what they will be doing on campus with Zagster. Dosier is concerned with Zagster and how it is being run. Wonders what PBAC thinks about Zagster. Laurie said that PBAC is concerned about missing stations. Dosier said that Zagster thinks it's not being run well; people parking at Zagster stations with non Zagster bikes. David said that he thinks the University is to blame for this, in that there isn't enough covered bike parking in Princeton, so that people use Zagster for parking.

Phil wondered if there are conversations to try to get students off of University campus and out into the community. David said that he recently had annual meeting with Princeton University, and this was brought up. Tineke said that University is exploring electric bikes as part of Zagster.

Deanna said that she will get her "Walk your wheels" stencil, and go downtown and paint it on the sidewalks, so that people don't ride on sidewalks with bikes or scooters.

David said that part of the reason Zagster locations in town weren't working that

well is that they should cater to visitors, as most residents have their own bikes. David said we should have Zagster locations by parking garages, and target visitors more. If Zagster was used more, it would get more sponsors.

Group discussed that bike parking problems and Zagster problems are related.

David Kimmel, member of public. Went to Permit Parking Task Force meeting and went to Post Office on Nassau. Said that the hanging bike racks at the Post Office by Seven-11 don't work that well. Talked about Ciclovía on Quaker Road. Said that he has an idea to have a group ride out to Quaker Road through Institute Woods. Also mentioned that on Princeton Pike, where Quaker Road comes in, there is a spot where paint was worn off of the corner, thinks that it should be re painted. Said that he'll try to come to Ciclovía and bring a unicycle and would try to get Trenton Circus squad to come.

When David rides his bike to work (from Princeton) down to Warren Street in Trenton, he said that there are old parking meter posts left that have been transformed into bike racks.

11. Adjourned at 8:45 pm.