

MINUTES
PRINCETON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
February 8, 2016
Conference Room A
Witherspoon Municipal Building

Present: Robert Altman, Kristin Appelget (Princeton University liaison), Nat Bottigheimer. Sam Bunting, Jenny Crumiller (Council liaison), Robert Kiser (Engineering liaison), Sgt. Tom Murray (Police Department liaison), Deanna Stockton (Princeton Engineering), Jack West (Princeton Engineering), Ralph Widner. **Absent:** Amner Deleon, Pam Hersh, Surinder Sharma. **Guests:** Dan Rappaport.

The meeting convened at 5:15 p.m.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2016 meeting.

Sam Bunting moved, and Nat Bottigheimer seconded, approval of the minutes for the January 11, 2016 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Elimination of Redundant Bus Stops

Bob Kiser reported that NJ Transit requested a resolution by Council approving the elimination of several redundant, unused bus stops on U.S. 206, and that the Council requests the committee's recommendations. The stops are northbound opposite Independence Drive, at Hibben, and at Library Place and at Valley Road, Cherry Hill, and Jefferson. The latter stops are unused because the bus route goes up Mt. Lucas.

Ralph Widner moved to eliminate the stops and forward the recommendation to Council. Nat Bottigheimer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

3. Status Report on Bus Shelters

Bob Kiser reported that, as requested at the last meeting, Jim Constantine was consulted concerning objections from the Historic Preservation Commission to the proposed "green roof" for the bus shelter at Palmer Square. Jim Constantine had once served on the Historic Preservation Commission and has agreed to join Bob Kiser and Pam Hersh when they meet with the commission in March or April to try to convince the commissioners to re-consider their objections.

4. Bicycle Master Plan Report.

Deanna Stockton said the Planning Board's Master Plan Committee will get its first look at the work on the Bicycle plan on Wednesday. It will then go to the Advisory Committee. To date the work is quite technical dealing with criteria and metrics, so there is little to review in terms of a physical plan.

Given that, Sam Bunting asked Deanna what she wanted from the Advisory Committee when it meets on February 23. She replied that the briefing will be informational to keep the committee up-to-date. The committee should be aware of, and critically comment on, whatever metrics the consultant plans to use. She said she anticipates three to four meetings of the Advisory Committee during the course of the plan's development.

She added that the Bicycle Advisory Committee met in January, and that two new members have been appointed, so there are presently six members.

4. Discussion of New Complete Streets Committee

Chairman Altman circulated Resolution 16-33 calling for an ordinance that will convert the present committee into a new "Complete Streets Committee." The resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes. He suggested that, though the ordinance is not yet enacted, we should begin acting as if it has been.

Jenny Crumiller explained that the ordinance will be enacted soon by Council.

There ensued a discussion repeating some of the same questions about structure, procedure, and purpose that took place at the committee's last meeting.

Ralph Widner said that the main objective is to make operational the aspirations in the community's Master Plan. Jenny Crumiller added that, equally important, is to implement the Complete Streets policy.

She said she wants to see very practical initiatives to accomplish that, such as establishing a "Safe Sidewalks" initiative.

Chairman Altman said he has trouble understanding what the questions are we will be asked to address and how we will get them.

Ralph Widner responded by circulating several examples of issues that have been raised either by a special report being prepared for the Planning Board by a team that includes Nat Bottigheimer and himself, or by a Princeton Future public forum in December. The papers are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

He used a recommendation from the report to the Planning Board about trying to increase carpooling through a municipally sponsored smartphone "app" as one example of an issue that might come to the committee. Concerns about increased and improved parking that arose in the Princeton Future public forum is another.

Chairman Altman asked how such questions will come to the committee and what procedures will be used to decide what to undertake? Ralph Widner responded by reading language in the ordinance that the questions can be referred by Council, or that the Committee can undertake an initiative on its own should it

deem it to be in the community's interest.

Sam Bunting said it really depends upon what Council wants. Does it just want an "advisory" committee, or does it want something more operational? Jenny Crumiller said that probably a bit of both, just so it is practical and helps the community.

Nat Bottigheimer said he has no problem in attempting to close the gap between planning goals and getting something done.

Ralph Widner suggested that he is willing to "bring in a platter of issues" to the March meeting that we can use to begin to establish criteria and procedures to consider and figure out how to address. This might include some proposed ad hoc task groups to get the process started.

5. Report of Traffic Safety Committee/Engineering

- Bob Kiser reported that sewer work on Valley Road is still in process.
- Deanna Stockton said that most of the previously reported projects are either completed or nearly completed. Striping on Hamilton is in process now that it has been repaved.
- She also reported that a new transit website is about ready and will be placed on the municipal website and submitted a summary sheet, which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

6. Police Report

Sgt. Tom Murray presented the police report for January 2016, which is attached to, and made a part of these minutes. He said there were 89 occurrences, three with injuries. There were no pedestrian accidents, but one with a bicyclist leaving school. Seven deer accidents exceed the number for the month in previous years.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50- p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ralph R. Widner, Secretary