

Jan 4, 2023 Princeton PBAC meeting Minutes

Present:

PBAC: Laurie Harmon, Perry Jones, Tineke Thio, David Kimmel, Lisa Serieyssol, Adrian Serieyssol.

Council Liaison: David Cohen,

Public: Pallavi Nuka, Carol Anne Hollingsworth,

Start of meeting: 7:05 pm.

Minutes approved.

Engineering report.

No updates on Engineering spreadsheet.

David C.; will make a quick comment:

Original plan was for contractor for Witherspoon to knock off for holiday season and not come back till march, but it seems that they will come back right away.

Lisa: comment that new mid-block crosswalk on Witherspoon isn't very visible. Not stripped very well.

David C.: He will bring it up in the next Traffic safety meeting.

Tineke: Feels that the mid-block crossing is not very raised above the street. Feels that it isn't raised enough to slow down cars or bikes. Tineke likes the way it is raised at the top of Witherspoon street, but it is just temporary.

Laurie: Would like engineering to do a corridor study on Snowden.

Pallavi: Seconds that; is a lot of stuff happening on Snowden.

Council report:

David C.: Council has a proposal for Civic Eye for communication for Vision zero. Hopefully this will get on Council agenda for Monday the 9th. This would just be a resolution approving their contract. (They already presented to council a couple of months ago.)

All recommendations have been submitted to the consultants for the master plan. David C. mentioned that the Planning Department feels that the master plan may not be the best place to move forward vision zero stuff; will wait to see what consultant comes back with and decide on how to move forward.

NJ Transit Way (Dinky Corridor) :

Tineke doesn't have any reports; said we shouldn't do anything on this yet.

Council is letting the Transit Advisory Committee take the lead on this. And then Council will take this up when that happens. Rich Rein did an article on this recently.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/princeton/sections/government/articles/expanding-the-princeton-dinky-transit-corridor-a-great-plan-but-will-it-happen>

Dave Kimmel: Said he was surprised to hear that Penn's Neck neighborhood in Penn's neck may be against the transit path. (NIMBY)

Other Business:

Dave Kimmel: Said that he is moving to West Windsor, and will have to leave the PBAC.

Talk of a GMTMA: Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association liaison with PBAC perhaps.

PHS Biking Club:

Adrian: Now splitting into two parts: Community Cycling Service Club. There will be another part as well, which is just students going for bike rides. Adrian will just be involved with the Service Club.

Events:

Wheels Rodeo.

Chasing George: Trying to resurrect that.

Mayor's ride; trying to do it.

Other events?

Ciclovía downtown perhaps. On Witherspoon street from Franklin to Valley, which would be a more accessible location for families. Dave will bring it up with the new chief of police. Dave isn't sure Witherspoon is best; it may still be under construction. John Bucchere is the Chief. He was promoted from within. He was Captain under Chief Morgan.

Quaker Road Ciclovía, maybe May or June.

Pallavi: Brought it up as possible to coincide with Walk to School day, but Dave C. pointed out that it is probably not best to do Ciclovía on a weekday.

Carol:

Suggested to do something with Porch Fest.

Priorities for next year:

We usually have two lists: One that we want council to do, and another that we want PBAC to pursue.

Ideas:

Snowden corridor study.

Tineke: Thinking that some apartment dwellers with e-bikes may want dedicated bike storage facilities, because the e-bikes are more expensive. Maybe suggesting that landlords be compelled to do this.

David C.: We do have bike parking ordinances that require bike parking for new apartments. Dave would suggest that maybe PBAC could develop a recommendation for a bike parking ordinance update.

Perry: Map based recommendations of bike ideas.

David C.: There is a bike mobility plan, that does have specific recommendations by street. This may need to be updated, but not a good idea to re-do the entire bike mobility plan.

David C.: Wants to possibly add some bike advisory lanes (like College Ave) to the bike mobility plan. There are not any currently in the bike mobility plan. Advisory lanes are kind of new.

Laurie: Feels that we need to develop more bike parking. Pallavi: Said there isn't enough bike parking at schools. David C.: Schools are a little more independent. Also, new school construction is only reviewed by state board of education, and Princeton doesn't have any input on school construction planning. Princeton Planning department wished they had more.

David C.: Our bike parking ordinance only kicks in when new construction is being done. Existing stuff is grand fathered in.

Pallavi: Would like bike parking at schools to be more of a priority for PBAC. David C.: Lisa has a lot of connections at schools.

Tineke: Would like to have snow clearing of sidewalks as something that is done by DPW for all residential streets. Right now, it is the rule that all residents have to clear the sidewalks in front of their houses. Perry feels that enforcement of residents dealing with this is a better idea than having DPW only deal with it. David C said you can't argue with the logic that a Complete Streets town should clear the snow off the complete street.

Tineke: Wants bike and pedestrian infrastructure to have a larger portion of the road budget, which is currently 4 million.

David C.: It is hard for this council to encumber future councils with budgetary constraints.

Tineke and Laurie: Good to consider how we can have this set up. Laurie mentioned an application to renew silver status. Laurie suggested creating an annual municipal goal for mileage of bike infrastructure or percentage of bike network completed, rather than a dollar amount.

Tineke: Shade trees in the parking lane. Would be good for storm water management systems. Would be good for traffic calming as well.

David C.: How this gets implemented is tricky, but an interesting idea. David C. suggests a cross-committee meeting to discuss (PEC, shade tree, etc.)

Perry: Traffic calming.

David C.: Jenny Crumiller, council member, worked with police to identify streets where there was speeding. There is a priority list of 10 streets that have been identified to get traffic calming, only a couple have had calming put in. Maybe we could build on that work.

David Kimmel: Like Tineke's idea for trees in streets.

Tineke: Trees in streets is being done in Portland, Oregon. Also, in Bonne Germany, there are cherry trees. Also in Boston; they are considering doing it. Laurie: Prince Edward Island, in Charlottetown.

Perry: Idea of having signs for 4 foot passing law being at city limits.

David C.: Education about a variety of issues may be a good idea. Maybe a column for Richard Rein's news website; an article that can be put up each month. PBAC could take turns coming up with columns.

Perry: Enforcement of laws by police.

David C.: Police have discretion whether to issue a summons or a warning when a traffic stop is made.

Tineke: Said that Pennington is a town where you don't speed at all.

David C.: Pennington is a town with only two major streets, so enforcement is much easier. David C. did have a meeting with new Traffic Safety officer, Mike Strobel, talking about things that can be done. Clandestine radar detectors to get data on how fast motorists are going have been bought. These are being used to target enforcement where most needed.

NJ tried traffic cameras about 10 years ago, but challenges in court were so numerous, it was costing the state too much. So, a law was passed to not allow video enforcement.

Carol:

Share the road signs. What does it take to get those put in place? Where bike walking lane ends at Cherry Road and Great Road, those are places where they get yelled at.

David C.: It's pretty easy to get those put in place, but it has to be done strategically; it can't be blanketed everywhere.

Laurie: Reviewing Bike Valet when it is appropriate. Better Signage. Banners for PBAC as well.

Council Goals:

Way goals were worked on last year wasn't that good, so council is still reviewing how to develop goals for 2023.