

## **Croton-on-Hudson**

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**October 20, 2020**

**Members and Guests Present:** Matthew Schuerman (Chair), Marc Albrecht, Matthew Arnold, Amos Bloomberg, Daniel Castner, Josh Diamond, Erik Ferguson, Edward Hadad, Robert Olsson

1. Approval of September 15 Minutes.

2. Old Business

- Approve Half Moon Bay Promenade Letter. Small edits in language were made. Letter will be signed as a “committee,” not “unanimously.” Robert Olson will send it to the Village Manager.

3. New Business

a. Improving Cyclists' Behavior

- The Great Croton-on-Hudson Transportation Survey 2019 showed a small but significant number of respondents expressed criticism of cyclists' behavior in the Village.
- Review of NYS helmet law: Matt Schuerman reviewed the law and found that helmets are only required for children under 14. Bicyclists are bound to the same traffic laws as cars.

Member Discussion: Principal Plotkin of PVC had stated in an earlier BPC meeting that his policy was to give a warning to students, if they are not wearing helmets. After a second warning they may lose their privilege to ride to school.

Allegedly the crossing guards are not at liberty to police the behavior of children pedestrian and bicyclists.

- Recommendations for Action:

Discussion: How could we take this on? Posters for kids with behavior? Gentle reminders of what is proper? Flyers for all kids? Josh Diamond felt these are not effective. It was agreed that this should be messaging for all cyclists.

“Everyone has to behave better.” Do we have a public awareness campaign for cyclist behavior, safely, a reminder that you are supposed to follow the rules just as cars are? This could/should be for motorists as well.

Public Campaign - like “Slow Down Croton” - a coordinated effort, with letters to Gazette, newsletters, village website. Perhaps a year-long campaign hitting multiple fronts? Robert Olson offered to start a brainstorming session, also with Marc Albrecht. Perhaps a series of letters in a theme? A slogan? Facebook pages like the Community page and the Croton Point. Patch? Matt Schuerman will mention it to Mayor Pugh.

Deborah Ramsey (not present) had expressed previously interest in a school presentation of bike safety, as she has done in the past. These efforts should be coordinated.

b. Potential Meeting with new Croton Police Chief Nikitopoulos. This would be an opportunity for him to get to know the BPC and vice versa, to learn the best way to communicate and liaison with him to make changes, give/get feedback, etc. to achieve shared goals.

This meeting should have an agenda, Matt will look to set it up. Questions/agenda points could include:

1. How would you rate compliance with traffic laws in the Village? Poor/Fair/Good/Excellent
2. Are there any statistics that the Department has compiled which would suggest problem areas?
3. Are there any correlations noted that would indicate relationships with different violations?
4. Are records kept when warnings or advisories are offered to motorists?
5. What suggestions do you have for actions the Village could take to reduce conflicts on the roads in the Village?
6. Do you think there might be enforcement actions the department should be emphasizing?
7. Is there any data on the enforcement of the 25mph limits?

#### c. Sidewalk Grinding Program

Do we need to encourage the Village to get a grinder to smooth sidewalk heaves? A brief general sidewalk discussion followed. As established in past meetings, due to current

circumstances with Covid and the Croton Point Ave project, Dan O'Conner is the only one responsible for enforcement and the DPW appears to currently be overwhelmed. We will discuss again in the near future.

d. Walk Buttons at Old Post South and Maple.

Can we ask for more descriptive signs? It is difficult to discern which buttons correspond to which direction of crossing. It appears that there once was lettering on the signs (there still is on one of them), but they have worn or fallen off. BPC agreed, yes, we should ask for better signs.

e. GitHub: Should We Revive It?

- This could be the main repository for BPC documents and ways of sharing/collaborating on larger projects. We are currently not putting things in there. Should we?
- Amos Bloomberg volunteered to take the lead, but wants to encourage many participants.

f. Ideas for Inexpensive, Effective Projects

Josh Diamond will follow up with the BOE on the proposal to re-establish a bike path behind high school to reach PVC.

**4. Adjournment**

Next meeting will be moved to Wednesday, November 18