

Final Minutes March 14, 2019 CSAC Meeting –

- I. Call to order at 4:00 pm at City Hall

Members Present –

Bob Dennison, Andi Turco Levin, John Grossbohlín, and Brian Slack, Reynold Scott-Childress

Alex Thompson - excused

Others – Kristen Wilson, Ed Norman, and Ryan Coon

- II. Welcome Guests and Public Comment – There was no guests or people wishing to comment
- III. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes Motion by John Grossbohlín seconded by Brian Slack.
- IV. Old Business -

CSAC – The Council has two vacancies right now and members were encouraged to seek out appropriate members of the community who have an interest in Complete Streets to apply for membership. Scott Workman has decided not to continue as a member of the Council.

ADA Transition Plan update. The City has received a grant from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities Program to prepare a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The plan will include an inventory of existing facilities and conditions which will complete the City ADA Transition Plan. The City administration is exploring funding possibilities for the match required by the grant. The Ulster Co MPO (UCTC) has been working on a parallel and complementary project to inventory and rate the sidewalks in the City. The UCTC has completed a digitized map of the sidewalks and plans on performing an inventory and condition assessment this year as resources allow. They will be using a rating system developed by and adopted by other MPOs in the state. It is a system that will allow a subjective assessment of conditions enabling a needs based ranking once pedestrian volumes and potential pedestrian generators are added as an overlay.

An update on projects can be found on the City web site. Kristen said that they are in the process of bringing that information up to date.

Empire State Trail – The State continues to progress this project and has been in consultation with the City about some details. The City has concerns about crossing Rte 32 at the trail head and how pedestrian traffic will be safely accommodated. The City has made preliminary comments to the NYSDOT. The state has not reacted to the City's concerns.

Street Light Monitoring –The city web site has a summary of the street light project which is moving forward.

Complete Streets Design Standards – The suggestion has been made to adopt the Traffic Calming Design Guidelines that are presently being used by New York City. These are guidelines and not binding but provide a framework and logic for responding to requests from the public to manage speed on the City streets. The guidelines can be found at <https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/traffic-calming.shtml>

The Glenn Street complaint was discussed and the response provided by the Ulster County MPO - UCTC. A memo from the UCTC was sent to Mr. Colangelo who appeared before the Council at the last meeting. The response addressed Mr. Colangelo's concerns with a data driven analysis of the perceived problem with traffic using Glenn Street. We have not seen a response from Mr. Colangelo.

The Glenn Street discussion led to a conversation about the process by which concerns from the public about traffic on City streets are addressed by the City Council. The process that has been used for many years is problematic for a number of reasons. Efforts to create a safe , congestion free and complete street system in the City has not been approached in a strategic systematic way and this has resulted in a patch work of traffic control devices and operational problems. Many times traffic control devices have been ordered by the City Council over the years without the benefit of an engineering analysis. This can result in unanticipated consequences frequently worsening the problem intended to be corrected, sometimes creating an unsafe condition or an unenforceable traffic control device.

Understanding that traffic concerns are an important constituency service issue for members of the City Council and the Mayor, it was suggested that the CSAC develop a draft process to be used by the City to formalize the approval and installation of traffic control devices in the City. The process must include an engineering element to assure that devices are installed in conformity with the New York State Manual of Traffic Control Devices (NYMUTCD) which is required by state law. The Council agreed to develop a draft process which will be submitted to the Mayor after review by the Superintendent of Public Works and City Engineer.

V. New Business –

There was a discussion of the proposal to realign the intersection of Grand and Broadway at the site of the former Post Office. The project was endorsed by the CSAC. There was a suggestion that the City consider adding the work to the Broadway streetscape project if at all possible.

The Zoning task force has been formed and the CSAC will have input once the consultant is selected and the work to convert the Master Plan to a Zoning Code begins.

VI. Adjourned at 6:00 pm.