

Walkable Downtown Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2026

Attendance:

Tistrya Houghtling

Michael Deegan

Josh Young

Tony Murad

Corey Stall until 7:00

Ingrid Benson until 7:30

Don Adams

Jared Anderson

- Tistrya gave a brief recap on the original TAP application, the request and approval with stone dust in the application.
- Town Board approved a switch to asphalt, but not to extend to the park. The approval was for the following:
 - Increase from stone dust to asphalt anticipated to cost \$300,000 of which 20% would be a Town match (\$60,000).
- After Town Board voted to apply for TAP Grant for the \$300,000 change to asphalt, we found out that the TAP grant minimum application is \$500,000 in federal funds, meaning the Town's share will need to be an additional \$125,000 (total of \$625,000)
- CM noted DOT's email regarding the use of asphalt and the potential liability associated with failure of the asphalt and ADA compliance in the future.
- CM should attend the next Town Board meeting to answer any questions related to TAP/additional funding. It was later decided that we would not need to attend this meeting, but when the preferred alternative is identified by the committee.
- The question was asked if NYSDOT has been approached about capital funds related to safety issues? NYSDOT was approached for their input on approach to improve the corridor and their recommendation was to prepare a plan and pursue a TAP grant, which we did. No safety issues within our segment from prior safety history.
- DOT has been approached in the past about traffic calming, and formal requests to lower the speed limit – no results.
- It was requested to consider having another public meeting to gain momentum toward a bigger corridor project.
- The committee requested that Creighton Manning evaluate the following:
 - Reduce south side to Community Center to Midtown Mall, one crosswalk near Blueberry Hill. What would the cost be for asphalt and concrete for the remainder of the project?
 - Evaluate the cost implications of not moving the curb.
- See Nassau in Rensselaer County on US 20, check lane widths, check functional classification for comparison.

- Park to School section has children using the shoulder, can this be incorporated? Not part of original TAP application. Can we identify safety needs where more funds could be allocated? Maybe Hinchey/Barrett funding could supplement.
- Connection from school to park on the “old rail trail” as a Phase 2 – may require easement or eminent domain from private owner.
- Committee consensus is not to apply for 2nd TAP grant at this time – no need to attend February 10, TB meeting, but future meeting when options are ironed out (March time frame) - committees recommendation to the Town Board is to stay within the current budget, upgrade to asphalt and make other changes to the scope of the project to keep the upgrade to asphalt within the current budget.
- CM to submit options for changes to upgrade to asphalt and stay within current budget, with costs by February 20 to the committee for review - then present to the Town Board with options for changes and the committees recommendation at the March 10th TB meeting.
- Next meeting 2/24/26 at 6:30pm online.