

## Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 2:30 pm  
via Microsoft Teams

### — Meeting Summary —

- 1. Introductions** – Emily Dozier (DCTC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions (see list below).
- 2. Presentation: Building a Bicycle Coalition** – Yvonne Caruthers, [Beacon Bicycle Coalition](#)

Yvonne shared the history of the Beacon Bicycle Coalition, an advocacy organization based in the City of Beacon. The Coalition was founded in August 2023 by Yvonne, Meg Lazaros, and Thomas Wright. The Coalition is focused on improving public visibility and knowledge of cyclists, improving safety, and creating community. They host and participate in events, including the Spirit of Beacon Day parade, a bike repair stand at the Beacon Farmers Market, Bikes at the Stony Kill Farm, Bike to School Day, and a turkey delivery project for Thanksgiving.

Pat Manning asked about the Coalition's relationship with the Beacon police. Yvonne explained that while they have few interactions with the police, the police manage the parade.

Rosemary Fritz Grabowska asked if the concept of a bicycle master plan for Beacon had progressed since being presented at a city council meeting. Yvonne said that the Coalition is actively looking for funding and building relationships with the newly elected council members. They hope to have a bicycle master plan completed in time to be included in the City's 2027 Comprehensive Plan.

Rob Cerrato asked if the Coalition had any advice for growing organizations like Bike Poughkeepsie. Yvonne emphasized making advocacy efforts visible, so that people notice bikes and discuss bike-related issues in their area. Gerry asked about any plans for open-streets events, like New York City's Summer Streets program. Yvonne said that previous efforts to create a similar event had not succeeded, but the group is interested in the idea.

Emily asked if the group would change anything about how they organized, given what they've learned. Yvonne said she was surprised by how much support they received from the community, and the number of people willing to help. John Galbraith asked about the structure of the group. Yvonne explained that while the Coalition is not a 501c3 non-profit, it has a steering committee of eight to ten people that meets every two weeks.

### 3. Partner Reports & DCTC Studies

- a. Thomas Wright reported that the Beacon Greenway Committee led an effort to get the Beacon Hudson River Trail (also called the Regional Connector) included in zoning revisions, and that the developers of a project adjacent to the train station plan to include the trail as part of the development. Thomas also noted that the [Newburgh-Beacon Bike Share plan](#) was completed, but an application for implementation funding was not successful. Thomas was hopeful that implementation could be re-attempted in the future.
- b. Colleen Dorney reported that Destination Dutchess' updated Bike Tour Guide has been published and printed, and has been added to [their website](#). She thanked the group for their help with the revised Guide and offered to mail hard copies if anyone can help distribute them (see her email address below).
- c. Rob expressed concern that the Dutchess Rail Trail (part of the Empire State Trail) is not plowed, meaning it cannot be used for tourism in the winter. Rosemary expressed concern about snow on sidewalks. Ross Ritter added that the shoulders of Route 376 need to be improved. Emily provided some [talking points](#) about sidewalk maintenance responsibilities.
- d. Michael O'Brien reported that Hopewell Depot Museum will have a new drinking fountain along the Empire State Trail. They will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the fountain and the newly restored caboose on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- e. County Public Works: Emily shared that DPW is planning to start construction in 2026 on sidewalk and crosswalk improvements on Maple Ave in Millerton, and new crosswalks and pedestrian signals at the Main St/Grand Ave intersection in the Town of Poughkeepsie. They are also starting preliminary planning for a sidewalk extension and improvements on Jackson St in the Village of Fishkill. DCTC is working with County DPW on these projects.
- f. Tracy Wright-Mauer asked if there were any bike signals or bike boxes planned or already at intersections in the county. Emily said she was not aware of any and noted that the County only controls about twenty signals. Cian Ormond asked about intersections with Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) signal timing, and whether cyclists were allowed to treat them as green lights. Emily explained that there was no law in NY for cyclists and LPs, but added that intersections on the arterials in Poughkeepsie have LPs.
- g. Traffic Safety Board: Emily encouraged everyone to share the resources on the [Watch Out For Me campaign](#), including videos, posters and a quiz.
- h. [Safety Action Plan](#): DCTC is hoping to finish this plan soon and present it to municipalities, police chiefs, and highway superintendents. A [countermeasure toolkit](#) is on the webpage.
- i. [Moving Dutchess Forward](#): DCTC is working on an update to its long-range plan, Moving Dutchess Forward. Emily encouraged everyone to take and share the [survey](#).
- j. Emily presented an update to the [Traffic Data app](#), which allows users to chart trends in pedestrian and bicycle counts. She also showed the [Bike Dutchess app](#). Cian asked if the data on these applications could be made available for download. Emily said she would investigate the possibility.
- k. Ross asked about the status of the Route 82 bridge and the Beacon Hopewell Rail Trail. Emily reported that NYSDOT scheduled the bridge construction for 2027-2028, and that they plan to remove the existing bridge and relocate the trail crossing slightly east, under Route 82. Emily added that the City of Beacon is actively pursuing funding for their portion of the Beacon Hopewell Rail Trail.

- l. Emily reported that Hudson Valley Greenway had released a [2024 Trail Use Report](#). Tracy asked if there was data regarding modes of transportation used to access the trails. Emily said that there is none, but Parks and Trails NY may include this as part of the Empire State Trail economic impact report they are working on. Tracy emphasized the use of the Empire State Trail by commuters in addition to its recreational value.
- m. The group discussed state and local advocacy efforts, including work by the [New York Bicycling Coalition](#), the Poughkeepsie arterials (including [DCTC's study](#)), and [e-bike regulations](#).

**4. Events, Funding & Announcements**

- a. [Hudson Valley Greenway: Community and Trail Grants; Trail Use Report](#)
- b. [Transportation Alternatives Program \(TAP\); Federal grants](#)
- c. [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#): up to \$50,00 for community spaces
- d. [Rugged Ridge Trail Access Program](#): up to \$5,000 for land conservation and trail access
- e. [Extreme Terrain Clean Trail Grant Program](#): \$250 grants for trail improvements
- f. [eBike Training Course - Online](#)

**5. Follow-up Items**

- a. [Bike Dutchess](#) app: send Emily bike rack/fix-it station locations (photo and description) and any suggestions for improvements.
- b. See our [BPAC webpage](#) for meeting summaries, recordings, and presentations, as well as a link to sign up for our email list.
- c. Let Emily know if you have a presentation idea!

**6. Next Meeting: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 pm**

- a. Meeting schedule: January, April, July, October; last Thursday, 2:30 - 4:00

**January 2026 BPAC Meeting Participants:**

Name	Organization	Email
Emily Dozier	DCTC	<a href="mailto:edozier@dutchessny.gov">edozier@dutchessny.gov</a>
Nina Leonard	DCTC	<a href="mailto:nleonard@dutchessny.gov">nleonard@dutchessny.gov</a>
Andy & Cameron	Bikeway	
Yvonne Caruthers	Beacon Bicycle Coalition	<a href="mailto:ybcaruthers@proton.me">ybcaruthers@proton.me</a>
Colleen Dorney	Destination Dutchess	<a href="mailto:colleen@destinationdutchess.com">colleen@destinationdutchess.com</a>
Rob Cerrato	Bike Poughkeepsie	<a href="mailto:robcerrato@gmail.com">robcerrato@gmail.com</a>
Nancy Foster	College Hill Coalition	<a href="mailto:nancyfoster@optonline.net">nancyfoster@optonline.net</a>
Rosemary Fritz Grabowska	Vassar College/ Poughkeepsie resident	

<b>John Galbraith</b>	sPOKe/Marist College	<a href="mailto:imgbike@gmail.com">imgbike@gmail.com</a>
<b>Emily Inoue</b>	Bard student/ Legislator Lisa Kaul staff	
<b>Pat Manning</b>	Town of East Fishkill Economic Development	<a href="mailto:econdevdirector@eastfishkillny.gov">econdevdirector@eastfishkillny.gov</a>
<b>Gerry Matusiewicz</b>	Shorewalkers Club	
<b>Marianne Marichal</b>	Resident	
<b>Rusty McKenna</b>	Resident, Village of Wappingers Falls	
<b>Michael O'Brien</b>	Town of East Fishkill	<a href="mailto:michaelbpobrien@gmail.com">michaelbpobrien@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cian Ormond</b>	Vassar College student/DCTC intern	<a href="mailto:cormond@vassar.edu">cormond@vassar.edu</a>
<b>Ross Ritter</b>	Resident, Town of LaGrange	<a href="mailto:rritter@homesteadfunding.com">rritter@homesteadfunding.com</a>
<b>Thomas Wright</b>	Beacon Greenway Committee	<a href="mailto:wright@atlaseast.com">wright@atlaseast.com</a>
<b>Tracy Wright-Mauer</b>	Vassar College/sPOKe/Bike Poughkeepsie	<a href="mailto:trwrightmauer@vassar.edu">trwrightmauer@vassar.edu</a>