



## **2020 NJBWC Summit: *Advocacy in Action: Initiative to Acceptance to Implementation***

### **Polli Schildge, Moderator: Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition**

Polli Schildge is a founding member of Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition. Since 2015 APCSC has been working to help make streets safe for all users, especially the most vulnerable. Polli and the APCSC team succeeded in an energetic campaign to convince the city to accept the NJDOT Rt 71 Road Diet, which is currently under construction. As a result APCSC received the 2017 NJDOT Complete Streets Summit Taskforce "Complete Streets Champion Award".

Polli focuses on education and community outreach for APCSC, designing print media, managing social media, and leading calls to action. She organizes monthly Slow Roll bike rides in the city, and is apparently known as "The Bike Lady".

Polli Schildge is a personal trainer, a former competitive cyclist, and 2019 NJ title winning powerlifter. She's the proud mom of 6 kids and 10 grandchildren.

### **Rick Lambert, Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition**

Rick Lambert is currently employed as a Laboratory Manager at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan.

Rick holds an MS in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of New Orleans, and he is vice-Chairman Asbury Park Planning Board.

Rick is a Steering Committee member of Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition, and has been involved since its inception. In 2016 as a recent Asbury Park transplant, Rick learned that the fledgling APCSC was working hard for the proposed Main Street road diet. He saw this as an opportunity to get involved at a real grass roots level to advocate specifically for the road diet, and generally for improved infrastructure and safety for citizens who were dependent on walking and riding bikes to get around Asbury Park.

### **Mike Manzella, Asbury Park Transportation Manager; Deputy City Manager**

Michael J. Manzella, PP, AICP is the Director of Transportation for the City of Asbury Park. Mike manages all transportation activities and projects in Asbury Park, and serves on the City's Planning Board, Parking Committee and Mayor's Wellness Committee. In this role, he manages the City's parking operations and focuses on improving pedestrian and bicycle safety, mobility and access. He graduated from the Bloustein School at Rutgers University with an MCRP in 2014 and since then has worked on transportation planning and traffic engineering projects in both the private and public sector.

### **Ben Lucarelli, Mayor of Fair Haven**

Ben Lucarelli is the Mayor of Fair Haven. He has been an avid supporter of Complete Streets in Monmouth County since his election as mayor of Fair Haven in 2012, and was awarded the 2016 NJBWC Advocate of the Year. Ben was the force behind Monmouth County reversing its April 2015 resolution to place all costs onto the municipalities for Complete Streets implementation on county roads. Ben is a member of Monmouth County Transportation Council, and a cycling enthusiast.

### **Anthony Talerico Jr., Mayor, Borough of Eatontown**

Anthony Talerico, Jr. is serving his first term as Mayor of the Borough of Eatontown. Prior to being elected Mayor, Anthony served as a member of the Borough Council for nine years. He began his career as a Certified Public Accountant, focusing on forensic accounting. More recently, he changed careers and is now a Register Nurse on the Oncology Floor of a hospital. As a life-long resident, Mayor Talerico tries to foster an environment where families choose Eatontown as the place they establish roots and call home. He believes that local government partnering with volunteer advocacy groups is the best vehicle for creating sustainable change. Mayor Talerico views Complete Streets as a mindset which can be fostered in new development as well as implemented in retrofitting infrastructure. The Borough of Eatontown has been very successful in the implementation of Complete Streets as a policy initiative and is proud to be the first town in the State of NJ to adopt the NJ DOT's Complete and Green Streets For All policy. Eatontown has a vision to provide safe access for all types of travelers of our roadways as well as creating and maintaining safe passages through and between our many parks and areas of recreation.

### **Kathleen Ebert, Founder Point Pleasant Borough Complete Streets**

Kathleen Ebert is a resident of Point Pleasant Borough, NJ. She graduated with a BA in Planning and Public Policy in 2016 from the Bloustein School at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Upon graduating, she started an advocacy group named, Point Pleasant Borough Complete Streets (PPBCS) in her town. Kathleen volunteers her time to help mold her local community by researching and suggesting recommendations to implement Complete Streets projects to the Boro's Mayor and Council. Kathleen also educates the public regarding Complete Streets topics through her group, PPBCS, by setting up informational tables at local Boro events, coordinating Bike Safety assemblies and bike rodeos at the local elementary schools, and acting as a liaison between key actors in the field to get projects done in the Boro.

### **Kenny Sorenson, Neptune Complete Streets Advocate**

Kenny Sorenson is a local Asbury Park musician who rides a bike to local gigs and encourages his band mates and fans to do the same. Ken and his band "Stringbean Blues", are the subject of the award winning documentary, " Bike Riddim" promoting bicycling and Asbury Park. He lives in Neptune City with his wife and daughter,  
Here they encounter local politics in the quest to make the streets safer for people.

### **Nancy Blackwood, Red Bank Complete Streets Advocate**

Nancy Blackwood is the chair of the Red Bank Environmental Commission and Green Team. She is an advocate for Complete Streets, and helped move Red Bank in that direction by leading a demonstration project, in concert with Sustainable Jersey, Voorhees Transportation Center, NJTPA and Red Bank Borough.

Nancy sees many more opportunities to make Red Bank a great place to walk or cycle.

