

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY April 8, 2019
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 400
Next Meeting May 13th, 2019 @ 7:00PM ROOM 308

Board Members in attendance: Daniel Johnson, Dan Firestone, Sandy Fry, Ken Livingston, Jill Morawski, Paul Hogan, Denisse Gutierrez. A Quorum was determined to be present.

Town Staff in attendance: Helen Rubino-Turco

- 1) Call to order 7:05PM.
- 2) Approval of previous meeting minutes. Dan Firestone moved the approval of the March 2019 minutes, seconded by Jill Morawski. All in commission was in favor to accept.
- 3)
 - a. Updates from Town Staff in attendance, Helen Rubino-Turco reported on the following:
 - i. "ten-minute walk" pledge by the Town. The Town will publish maps on West Hartford Trust For Public Lands website.
 - ii. The Town is preparing for Earth Day. Blue Earth Composting will be working with Rockledge restaurant to work on waste management initiatives.
 - iii. The Town is in discussions for a new recycling initiative that partners with non-profits. Redeemable bottles would be picked up and donated to non-profits. To be determined are specific West Hartford park clean-up days.
 - iv. The Town is exploring new ways to get people into the park and have residents to take ownership.
 - v. Ride to school day May 8, 2019 and the Town has requested more details to this event to pass onto School Administrators.
 - vi. This discussion raised concerns with enforcement of motor vehicle traffic. Commission member Paul Hogan has had recent dangerous experiences with motorists abiding the law. The concerns of the room were brought to Helen Rubino-Turco.
 - b. Reports from subcommittees: the bike rack committee has met a few times, Jill and Allen Blasenstein reported. They did receive a 2013 map of bike racks in place at that time. This list needs to be updated and volunteers will be requested to document current locations and locations where racks are needed. At the next commission meeting they will report on bike rack types
- 4) Old Business
 - a. Response to Mountain Road/Albany Avenue project letter. The Town Engineers responded that they will not be able to accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic as proposed by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission letter sent on March 18, 2019. The Town are not able to accommodate the request and are moving forward with CRCOG on a design which removes the current sidewalk and changes bike lane width, without the WHPBC support. The commission will request an exception to be presented to the Town Council in accordance with the Complete streets Policy.
 - b. Update regarding other roadway projects and paving
 - i. Fern Street scheduled repaving between North Main Street to Trout Brook Drive. The proposal is to have bike lanes in each direction with 2 ft. painted buffers separating the lanes from traffic. There is concern

- regarding the bike lanes design at the intersections, which has not been developed yet..
 - ii. Boulevard is schedule for repaving between Quaker Lane S to Prospect Avenue. The Towns proposal follows the current design between Trout Brook Drive and Quaker Lane South.
 - c. Review of Bishops Corner Alternatives
 - i. The plan is to improve safety for pedestrians, CTDOT is managing this project., Ethan Frankel provided concept drawings discussed at the Bishops Corner Neighborhood Association meeting. The Commission decided that it would not be worthwhile at this time to discuss these proposals because there is not sufficient funding in place to construct any of them.
 - d. Items for consideration by the board
 - i. Crosswalks on Farmington Ave,
 - 1. Crosswalks are requested on Farmington Avenue between Brace Road and Mountain Road to provide safer and closer street crossing people taking the bus, park access, residents, and for students North of Farmington Ave who attend Sedgwick Middle School and Conard.
 - 2. Because town staff indicated that they would like better direction for where crosswalks are needed, the commission will build a systematic proposal for Crosswalks and email current contacts and community groups to discuss crosswalk needs elsewhere. Helen will include potential crosswalks in the planning for the 10 minute walks to parks program.
 - ii. Safety Campaign: We are a safe Town. The Commission thought that town staff was going to investigate feasibility of putting road safety messages on the banners posted in retail center. No progress on this item from staff side or commission side. This topic will be discussed as part of a discussion of Goals and Vision at the Commission's next meeting.
 - e. Bike Share
 - i. Helen Rubino-Turco discussed, Mark Blanchard will serve as the Town's representative to the CRCOG committee assisting with the development of a regional bike share RFP. The Town supports a bike share program with manual and electric assist bikes. The system should be docked. The Town does not support scooters.
- 5) New Business:
- a. Vision and goal setting was skipped, we will make this the first item on the May meeting agenda
 - b. Celebrate West Hartford plans - Celebrate is June 1st and June 2nd. We need to increase rider awareness to direct to valet parking. Volunteers are needed for the Bike West Hartford Booth. The Commission can display information at the booth. We discussed posting a map of town and asking people to pinpoint locations where crosswalks are needed. Also, we might seek input for bike rack locations.
- 6) Reports from Associated Group, Bike West Hartford, INC.
- i. Cycling Without Age - Dan Firestone reported:
 - 1. the rickshaw is back at Hughes retirement home
 - 2. Cycling Without Age was asked to participate at a Polo event. Portion of ticket sales would be donated to Bike West Hartford, Inc., with free tent, and a portion of ticket sales.

- ii. Bike west Hartford: More sponsors are needed for Center Streets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Johnson, Secretary and Board Member
West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission