

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY June 10, 2019
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 400
Next Meeting July 8th, 2019 @ 7:00PM ROOM 400

Board Members in attendance: Daniel Johnson, Dan Firestone, Sandy Fry, Jill Morawski, Paul Hogan, Colin Gillespie. A Quorum was present.

Town Staff in attendance: Helen Rubino-Turco

- 1) Call to order 7:05PM.
- 2) Approval of previous meeting minutes. Daniel Johnson made a motion to approve of the May 2019 minutes, seconded by Jill Morawski. All commission was in favor to accept.
- 3) Sandy Fry and Town engineer Duane Martin have agreed to have a discussion on the Tuesday a week prior to commission meetings to review upcoming matters.
 - a. Mountain Road/Albany Avenue, Duane Martin explained that Council postponed making a decision on an exception to the Complete Streets policy for this road. Council was concerned about the property owner (SW corner) who indicated they did not want to lose any ground to the project. Staff will develop a new design that does not require this additional right of way. Sandy asked the Commission if they wanted to suggest converting the existing sidewalk to a multi use path. There was not enthusiasm for this idea because of the need for crossings of Mountain Road on either end. The project will still need to go through the exception process. Jill Morawski raised the need for additional sidewalks. The Commission is not in favor of any design regarding this intersection which reduces pedestrian or bicycle safety in favor of vehicle traffic.
 - b. North Main Street Bridge: DOT is holding grants until the State budget is approved. The Town's budget does include the road diet pilot, and this can move forward immediately once the bridge was complete. Sandy has some information on how this will be approached and will share it.
 - c. Update on roads:
 - i. Boulevard and Fern have been repaved but are not restriped yet. Hilldale Rd, Richmond Ln, Richmond Rd, Ridgewood Rd (Farmington Avenue to Sedgwick) are up next for Town repaving. These are all likely to be marked with sharrows. The Town has developed a Sharrow marking system (how frequently the sharrow markings are placed). Colin asked that we get a copy of this policy. Ringgold may be added to the paving schedule if there is funding available for this.

- ii. Trout Brook Trail (Fern to Duffield) is still in negotiation with DEEP. Park to Jackson section survey is complete, design under way, once the design is complete, Town will hold a public meeting.
 - iii. The Town has received a Community Connectivity grant for marking sharrows on roads, they will focus this effort upon the colored bicycle routes.
 - iv. Ed Pawlak of Bike West Hartford, spoke with many residents during Celebrate West Hartford, some residents are unhappy with the bike lane design on King Phillip Drive. They would like the bike lanes to be "parking protected", that is, between the curb and the parking. Sandy will discuss with Duane to determine if this could be done,
- d. Bike share updates: CRCOG will issue an RFP for bike share services this month on behalf of several communities, including West Hartford. Helen reported that town staff submitted proposed bike share stations to CRCOG. Sandy asked that this location map be shared with the Commission.
- e. Planning department matters, no updates.
- f. Following up on goals and vision. Sandy suggested that the Vision that Colin suggested last meeting seems to capture our desires fairly well- In 10 years we will see more children biking and more people choosing walking and bicycling over motor vehicle travel in West Hartford:
 - i. Education, the commission is in agreement that this topic (to educate bicyclists, including children, and motorists) needs to be set as priority. What prevents West Hartford from getting a 4th grade bike safety program underway? Helen Rubino-Turco said that the Health and PE staff person with the BOE is a champion for this, but has received so much push back that the idea has not gone forward. The Commission offered to meet with her to learn of the barriers to implementation, we may be able to collect information from south windsor and other groups that can address these concerns. Helen will reach out and see if she can set up a meeting for a couple commission members and Lisa Daly. Daniel Johnson and Kevin Feeley volunteered to participate in this meeting. The commission talked about the State Funded Share the Road (Watch for Me CT) campaign has media elements to educate drivers and pedestrian. Can we promote sharing the road locally? Ideas - short videos for public access, space on the web site, street banners (on light poles). Helen indicated that the Town does not have funds available for this type effort. Tracey Frankel will do research on types of messaging used in other communities. The

commission has agreed Education is an important building block for our vision.

4) New Business - nothing discussed

5) Reports

- a. by Town Staff: Welcome to Parks Bingo, by Helen Rubino Turco and the Parks and Leisure Services, created a game focused on “everyone has a right to have a ten-minute walk to a park”. This is a game residents can play and boost outdoor activity.
- b. Jill Morawski discussed a potential sister city in Edina, outside of Minneapolis. Edina required the Town to have certain ordinances completed by a certain date.
- c. Bike rack subcommittee - Jill Morawski reported that we should push for an ordinance that requires bike racks as part of new developments. The committee has completed its inventory of bike racks and has identified locations that need racks. Jill will send out information in this regard.
- d. Update on cycling without age. No update.
- e. Update from Bike West Hartford Inc., They had bike valet parking for 14 hours during Celebrate West Hartford. 150 bikes parked. The booth received an enormous number of residents voicing need for safe bike routes in Town. People want maps of areas to bike. Lastly, Bike West Hartford needs more volunteers. The step-up health challenge and the bike safety awareness game brought many families to the booth.

10. Next meeting schedule for July 8th, 2019. We will check to be sure we will likely have a quorum for this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

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