

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY May 13, 2019
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 312
Next Meeting June 10, 2019 @ 7:00PM ROOM 400

Board Members in attendance: Dan Firestone, Sandy Fry, Ken Livingston, Colin Gillespie, Ryan Nobrega, Denisse Gutierrez, Jill Morawski and Paul Hogan

Town Staff in attendance: Mark Blanchard, Department of Leisure Services, Nick Sanford and Mike Rousseau of the Police department

Other attendees: Ben Wenograd (Town Council member), Alan Blasenstein, Ethan Frankel, Kevin Feely, Laurie Silverman, Kedeshia Clarke, Garnett Ankle

Quorum requirements were met.

- a. Call to order 7:10 PM. Introductions of those in attendance were made.
- b. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Dan Firestone made a motion for approval of the minutes, seconded by Colin Gillespie, all voted in favor.
- c. Old Business
 - a. Status- Mountain Road/Albany Avenue project
Ben Wenograd noted the Complete Streets exception request would be discussed at the May 15th Community Planning and Physical Services Committee meeting of Town Council. Sandy asked if there was material provided to the sub-committee. Ben was told there was material provided the prior Friday. Sandy would reach out to Duane Martin to clarify the exception process and to obtain a copy of the material provided to the sub-committee.
 - b. Status- North Main Street Bridge project
Approval of project funding/grant still at CTDOT. The town is optimistic about starting the project this Fall. There was a discussion as to the Road Diet Program and whether the approved 2020 budget includes money for the program Ben W. confirmed there was money in the budget for the program within the Capital Plan.
 - c. Update on Roadway paving projects
Paving will occur on Fern Street between North Main Street and Troutbrook. The line striping cross-section was reviewed by the Commission, and it was agreed that it reflects prior conversations with Town Staff. Jill M. commented that it was important to continue the extension of the bicycle lanes further east on Fern Street and beyond to Morley School.
Other pavement projects include Ridgewood, town is examining this for bike lanes.
 - d. Bike Share update
Sandy stated there is still ongoing discussion with CROG on a regional bike share project. She mentioned there is a meeting this Wednesday where CRCOG is looking for proposed locations for bike share. Overall there are concerns with how a regional free bike share program may operate and what it would require to be free, i.e., advertising at docking stations. The key question is there a demand for bike share in our communities. Current consideration of bike share may allow up to 50% be an e-bike.

e. Planning Department Updates

There is a proposed subdivision off Tunxis Road near Burnt Hill. The Commission discussed if there was a potential need/value for sidewalks in the subdivision. The Commission agreed it was not a priority to provide input on the need for sidewalks.

f. Goals/Visioning

Colin discussed the need for the Commission to develop an understanding of priorities and what the basic agreements on priorities. He suggested a vision for West Hartford 10 years in the future – we will see a lot more children on bikes and more people choosing to walk and bike rather than use a motor vehicle. Ken discussed the need to balance the Commission goals and goals of Bike West Hartford. Ethan provided clarity on the mission of Bike West Hartford. Paul identified a core need as the North Main Street connection. Alan identified the need to enforce speed limits, increase crosswalks, and improve the pedestrian street crossing. Other suggestions for priorities included bicycle education programs for elementary schools to increase education and awareness so that everyone – drivers, walkers, cyclists, know how to operate safely. Jill identified the goal to increase the support for biking and walking at the highest levels of town administration and staffing. Laurie identified the need for the Town to support bicycling and walking events. Mark mentioned the need for more support for Bike to School efforts. Jill mentioned the need for the Commission to encourage participation throughout the town and increase diversity and inclusion of efforts. Denise stated the more people on bikes and walking the fewer cars on the streets. Colin suggested a focus on leisure commuting and youth.

g. Celebrate West Hartford

Scott Franklin and Ethan through Bike West Hartford will be providing bike tours before the Celebrate 5k, on the three designated town bike routes. Volunteers were needed to lead the rides.

4) New Business:

5) Reports

a. Town Staff

The town is focusing on the 10-minute walk to parks and would like to have a related 10 park ride. Helen Rubino Turco is looking for volunteers to help organize. Reach out to Helen if you have an interest.

b. Report on /sister Committee

Shortlist exists on potential communities, though the Committee is still looking for options. The focus is on sustainability, climate, and transportation.

c. Subcommittees

Bike parking – Alan did a survey of bike parking and has it on a google map. He has not yet identified gaps in parking and bike parking needs.

d. Cycling Without Age

New pilots being training on May 18th. Limited rides have been provided this spring. The rickshaw will be at BiCiCo at New Park Avenue for Bike to Work Day

e. Bike West Hartford Inc.

No Report

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Livingston, Board Member
West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission