

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday July 13, 2020 @ 7PM WebEx
Next Meeting: August 10, 2020

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

A quorum was held.

Town Staff in attendance: Helen Rubino Turco, WH Leisure Service, Pramod ?? of the Library

1. Quorum was held. Call to order 7:06pm
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. A motion to approve June 2020 minutes was made by Jill Morawski, seconded by Ken Livingston and the motion was approved.
3. Old Business
 - a. New bike route discussion
 - i. Daniel Johnson provided and request community feedback on existing routes. Jill Morawski suggested updating online routes first. Had concerns with pedestrian in Elizabeth. Daniel Firestone described dirt road parallel to Asylum so that Asylum does not have to be used. Paul Hogan recommended using a live document to include continuous request. Ryan Nobrega, road the Blue route and felt more feedback from the community is needed. Bike West Hartford Inc. member, Scott Franklin, recommended to include to online portals first. Colin Gillespie would like to post online and continue momentum without committing to fully signed and designated route.
 - ii. Sandy Fry summarized: The commission will collect more feedback from residents on existing routes, adding online presence to show where the route exists and other resources. New routes, including the one that we discussed last month and this, along with a second route, utilizing North Steele, Ledyard, Mohawk and Mohegan to link to the green route might be added as online routes.
 - b. Energy task force report – transportation page
 - i. Daniel Johnson provided feedback that the commission should provide more details to this task force
 - c. Updates on roadway projects via word from Duane Martin:
 - i. Sandy Fry recapping conversation with Duane Martin, in west Hartford center the back in parking is still functioning well, no major complaints

- ii. North Main Street, in stage 2, there had been some holdups as an issue with respect to a water main was worked out. So it may have appeared that there were a few weeks with no activity. In about 1 month, the project will move to the next stage where the work takes place on the east side of the bridge. Completion is expected to be July 2021.
- iii. Road diet trial, the selected contractor, VHB, is expected to deliver a final scope of work and the town will sign a contract with them by the end of the week.
- iv. The town plans to repave Main Street shortly after the bridge is completed.
- v. Mountain and Farmington video review for pedestrian cross traffic, the town is waiting for road construction (repaving) on Boulevard to be completed. Concern was that the construction would disrupt regular traffic patterns at this location
- vi. Going to install bike corral on the North Side of the center near Barbs pizza.
- vii. Sandy also indicated that going forward she will also have a monthly phone call with Todd Dumais.
- viii. The Town asked for WHBPC for feedback on Slow Streets – where might they be implemented?
 1. Sandy Fry read off the currently the identified potential streets:
 1. Fern, Mountain to Quaker
 2. Boulevard, South Main to Prospect
 3. LaSalle
 4. Walbridge, Fern to Elizabeth
 5. Flagg, WestMoor to Blue Ridge
 6. Sky View, Albany to Trout Brook
 7. North Steel, west Brook, Mohawk
 8. Walden, Whitman to Pleasant
 9. Isham, Memorial to Isham turn
 10. Main, Sedgewick to Albany
 11. Quaker, South of Fern to asylum
 12. Hillcrest, South of New Britain Avenue (under construction currently)

13. . A discussion was held regarding the intent, the group is still not sure what the goals are for this program. The town suggested the slow streets would be implemented on weekends. . No conclusions were made beyond the suggestion that Center streets should be considered part of this program.

d. Update Mountain Road/Farm Ave intersection observation

e. Updates on trail projects

i. Trout Brook Trail, Section 3 will extend what exists, south of Park, Section 5 & 6 is still held up by the development of a maintenance agreement with dEEP but is expected to move forward soon, Section 7, Duffield to Asylum, will be completed by the Town

f. Proposed bike parking locations – letter sent to town

i. The letter from the commission sent to Duane Martin, Duane acknowledged receipt and will provide a response.

4. New Business:

a. Need to revisit bicycle plan

i. The Commission discussed a survey to get more feedback from residents. The question was asked, "Do we want the Town to develop a bicycle plan?" Should the commission send out a survey.

1. Generally the commission supports the idea of putting out a survey prior to working on a plan update. Ken said that a survey could include an interactive map. Colin said he could help with a survey. Paul Hogan noted that the POCD captured a lot of information about bicyclist needs and we should look at that. A big issue is that the roads we need for a well connected bike network are the arterials and it is difficult to provide bike facilities on these. Enforcement is also an issue. It was noted that we have a wonderful asset in the Center, but it is hard to access by bike. A reference to Seattle slow streets creating a network that avoids arterial roads. Jill Morawski asked to revisit the bike plan and add to it. Ken noted that we need to build the case for prioritizing bicycle facilities, so that we are not just "fitting them in" where we can. All agreed, including visitors, we need a big bold vision. We need to convince the town to commit to creating a well connected effective bike network.

Next steps:

1. Commission members should review the current bike plan. Discussion of the existing plan will be the topic of our next meeting. (Sandy will send a link to an electronic copy)
 2. We should create and administer a survey to measure citizen interest in improving bicycle facilities
 3. Final step is to develop a new visionary plan
- b. Follow up item from POCD: Action 3c. Revise the zoning ordinances to create requirements and standards for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and amenities.
- i. Sandy asked if the Commission member would volunteer to partner with the Town to review. No Commission members responded. Sandy will work with Todd on this and report back to the commission.
5. Reports
- a. Town Staff updates
 - i. Helen Rubino-Turco, WH Leisure Services, mentioned limited summer camps,
 - ii. She thanked Bike West Hartford Inc. for piloting Wheels on Wednesdays to supplement the gap in Town activities.
 - b. Update from Bike West Hartford Inc.
 - i. Scott Franklin reported, 26 people showed up for the Weekend Wheels ride led by Bike West Hartford.
 - ii. Ethan Frankel, the Bike West Hartford received donations. The 5th Center Streets hasn't been cancelled but Bike West Hartford, Inc, intends to have a conversation with the Town on feasibility.

August 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

Meeting adjourned 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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