

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday February 10, 2020 @ 7:00PM ROOM 217
Next Meeting: March 9th, 2020 @ 7PM ROOM 400

Board Members in attendance: Sandy Fry, Daniel Johnson, Colin Gillespie, Paul Hogan, Denisse Gutierrez, Ken Livingston, Jill Morawski

Town Staff in attendance: Marc Blanchard, West Hartford Leisure Services

1. Quorum was held. Call to order 7:04 PM
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes on a motion by Daniel Johnson, seconded by Denisse Gutierrez, the Minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Old Business
 - i. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Annual Report for calendar year 2019 was sent to Town Staff. A reply was received from Mayor Shari Cantor
 - ii. A letter was sent to the Board of Education and the Town Council was added to the email, expressing the Commission support for advocacy of a 4th grade bicycle education program.
 - b. Comments on WH Plan of Conservation and Development
 - i. Comments were discussed. The final version of comments were sent to Todd Dumais and are attached to this email. The Commission discussed the importance of this question relative to the POCD: “what can be done regarding a reversal of the pattern of increased crash rate?” The commission does not want this information to be lost without action. Also request multi-departmental involvement. Sandy will communicate this directly to Town staff. Also it was noted that we want the POCD to represent a change in mindset, and that education is needed in this regard.
 - c. 4th Grade Bike Education Program – Sandy Fry read the email response from Deb Polun, Board of Education, in response to the letter sent by the Ped and Bike Commission. Liam Sweeney from Town Council also responded requesting more information on the cost of program and how funds would be used.
 - i. Resident, Virginia DeLima asked if the Town can look at integrating the education into other classes, including the Town Clean Energy task force.
 - ii. Marc Blanchard reported on behalf of Helen Rubino-Turco regarding a recent meeting of the Human Services Committee, stated if the program is to be implemented during school hours, it is a Board of Education departmental matter . If it is to be outside school hours, Leisure Services is interested in supporting the idea.
 - d. Status of Roadway Projects from conversations with Duane Martin. The Commission discussed planned paving projects, Duane asked for Commission feedback.
 - i. Surrey Way will get sharrow
 - ii. North Main Street between Albany Avenue to Pioneer Drive will get repaved, there was consensus that if there is not sufficient width for bike lanes, sharrow should be marked.
 - iii. Fern St between Quaker and Prospect, repaving Spring 2020
 1. Bike Lanes are recommended
 - iv. Fern St between Trout Book Drive to Quaker Lane North will be done Summer 2020
 1. Bike Lanes are recommended

- v. Boulevard between Whiting lane and Prospect, parking on side with bike lanes on the other.
 - vi. Ringgold Street will be reconstructed and sharrow will be included
 - vii. Webster Hill Boulevard, between South Main to Crestwood – it was unclear to the Commission whether parking will be allowed on one side of the street. Bike lanes are preferred but if there is not sufficient space, bike lane on one side, sharrow on other is acceptable
 - viii. CRCOG has an application open for funding, the Town may go for rehabilitation funds for Sedgwick Road, Ridgewood to South Main, and would include bike lanes. The Town requested endorsement from the Commission, the Commission agreed that Sandy can author such a letter and send it on behalf of the Commission.
 - ix. The New Park Avenue project is finally moving forward – the Town has received feedback from the CTDOT and this will allow the project to progress.
- e. Status of North Main Street Road Diet Trial
- i. The Commission reviewed the Town's proposal for North Main Street Trial and made comments, the first 8 weeks need to be fatal flaw determined with the trial period being 6 month minimum, at least the trial study begin after the 8-week normalization period. All prior correspondence and meetings discussed an 6 month trial period. The proposal is not accepted by the Commission as it was presented. Sandy will relay the Commission's feedback to Duane.
- f. Sections 5 and 6 of the Trout Brook Trail will move Forward as the Town and DEEP have come to an understanding regarding maintenance of the Trout Brook channel.
- g. Bike Share – Marc Blanchard gave an update, The bike share company is Zagster. CRCOG and Zagster have an agreement in place and now each participating town will negotiate individual agreements. Hartford's program will move forward initially.
4. New Business
- a. Daniel Johnson provided update on permanent installation of a Bike Safety Course
 - i. It was recommended to research Denmark, Copenhagen which has built a similar concept.
5. Reports
- a. Town Staff Updates, no updates
 - b. Update Bike West Hartford
 - i. They will be in touch with Sustainable CT for crowdfunding opportunities for the 2020 Center Streets
 - c. BiCi Co Friday February 21st 6PM @ 616 New Park Avenue will be having open house and fundraiser. Please attend and support!

Meeting adjourned 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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