

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday June 8th, 2020 @ 7PM WebEx
Next Meeting:

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

A quorum was held.

Town Staff in attendance: Duane Martin, Town Engineer and Gina M. Varano, Corporation Council and meeting facilitator.

1. Quorum was held. Call to order 7:06pm
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes. A motion to approve March 2020 minutes was made by Daniel Johnson, seconded by Jill Morawski, motion was approved.
3. Old Business
 - a. Updates on repaving projects provided by Duane Martin
 - i. Just finished paving North Main St. Albany Ave to Pioneer,
 - ii. Repaved 2 sections of Fern street, Trout Brook to Quaker and Quaker to Prospect. The bike lane will be discontinuous in front of Morley School. The Commission requested, and the town agreed, to install signage saying the bike lane ends and Bikes May Use Full Lane. This latter sign is special order so will not be installed immediately. A crosswalk improvement, with stamped crosswalk and a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) will be installed. The Commission discussed how we might be more effective in lobbying for a complete bike lane in a location like this. Duane noted that we can keep an eye on the pavement condition index, which indicates which roads are likely to be paved next.
 - iii. Webster Hill Boulevard paving, will remove parking from one side of street to allow bike lanes on both sides.
 - iv. Farmington Ave to Mountain Rd section of Boulevard: will install buffered bike lanes and leave parking on south side of road only, in this section.
 - v. Hyde Road is planned for Second round of paving and will be painted with Sharrows
 - vi. Third Round, section of Park Road, West of Quaker Lane S. The commission has reviewed those plans already.
 - b. Sedgwick Road, Wardwell to South Main: The Town submitted an application for funding to the CRCOG LOTCIP program. The project will include bike lanes. The WHPBC provided a letter of support for the project.
 - c. North Main Street, progressing well and targeted completion Spring 2021.
 - i. North Main Street Rd road diet trial project received three proposals
 1. The chosen consultant was interviewed and the scope is currently being negotiated.
 2. Expect modified scope within the next couple weeks
 3. They mentioned the ability to get work done during the bridge project
 - ii. Repaving – the town may complete a thin mill and pave prior to the trial period.

- d. Boulevard and Four Mile,
 - i. While there were no crashes on Four Mile during the test of the diversion, there were 2 crashes at Newport and increased traffic volumes on Newport.
 - ii. Therefore, a new configuration will be tested: semi diverters at both Newport and Boulevard and Four Mile and Boulevard. The diverter at Newport will allow northbound traffic. The diverter at Four Mile will allow southbound traffic.
 - e. Changes in outdoor dining, and Center environment, Town is testing back-in angle parking on LaSalle Rd. LaSalle is now just 1 way northbound. Farmington is 1 lane in each direction with some angle parking.
 - i. Ken Livingston, is there anything the commission can do to evaluate the success of this approach, so that it might be implemented seasonally going forward?
 - 1. Duane Martin, mentioned the biggest challenge is the reduction in parking spaces, but the back in angle parking seems to be working well.
 - f. Trout Brook Trail update, Gina M. Varano may have reached maintenance agreement with the State.
 - i. It may take a while to have the approval and the ability to move forward. The Town cannot start construction on State property until authorization is made.
 - ii. The Second Grant is from DEEP, phase 5 Farmington to Fern
 - iii. Phase 3 is still in design and hoping for to start construction in 2021.
 - g. Proposed bike parking Changes
 - i. Park Rd. Quaker Ln and Prospect
 - ii. New Britain Ave.- Mayflower and Newington Rd.
 - iii. Jill Morawski made a motion for the Commission to draft a letter to the Town to add bike parking locations at the identified areas, Colin Gillespie seconded the motion, approved unanimously
 - h. Updates on bike Share,
 - i. The bid winner for CRGOG was Zagster, this company was then acquired by another company and the project is on hold.
 - i. 4th Grade Education program
 - i. Scott Franklin and Daniel Johnson nothing to report
4. New Business:
- a. Mountain Road and Farmington Ave, RTOR issues,
 - i. Duane Martin, the Town will place a video camera at the intersection to monitor activity
 - b. Proposed new bike Route
 - i. 10 year old, Claire O'Donnell, a West Hartford Resident, suggested a new bike route to add to the Towns current signed bike routes,
 - 1. The Proposal of the 4th would pass through Elizabeth Park, near Asylum, back out onto Steele Rd.
 - 2. Duane Martin mentioned requirement to coordinate with City of Hartford.
 - 3. Sandy Fry asked the commission members to ride the route and the Commission will discuss further at our next meeting
 - c. The Town Energy Task Force Report

- i. The Commission was asked for feedback on the presentation. This will be discussed in detail at the next commission meeting.
- 5. Reports
 - a. Update from Bike West Hartford, Inc
 - i. Ethan Frankel, provided an update on Center Streets 2020, they have not cancelled the event yet, fundraising will need to be restarted once there is comfort.
 - ii. Scott Franklin, the tentative date is Sunday August 30th,
 - b. Cycling Without Age has been slow due to health concerns,
 - i. update provided by Dan Firestone.
 - c. Scott Franklin, reported on new ride schedule
 - i. Helen Rubino-Turco reached out to Bike West Hartford, Inc. to lead a bicycle ride on weekends. Detailed schedule to be posted by Town and Leisure Services
- 6. The floor was opened to call in users or other commissions for additional questions or comments.
 - a. No new issues were raised.

Next meeting July 13th, 7pm likely to a video conference.

Meeting adjourned 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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