

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday September 14, 2020
Held via webex

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

A quorum was held.

Town Staff in attendance: Gregg Somers

- 1) Approval of meeting minutes: on a motion by Colin Gillespie, seconded by Daniel Johnson, the July 13, 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- 2) Updates on WH Roadways and project
 - a. North Main Street traffic calming study
 - i. Road diet consulting firm is under contract, any traffic counts that are needed now will be adjusted for changes due to COVID19
 - b. North Main street bridge project is on schedule and moving through stages
 - i. Targeted completion end of July 2021
 - c. The New Park road diet is underway, and the link was shared by the commission, the bid will be out in late 2022
 - i. Most of the work is sidewalk area plus a road diet.
 - ii. Pocket park at entrance to Troutbrook trail.
 - iii. Traffic signals will be replaced at Talcott and Oakwood
 - d. Trout Brook Trail DEEP issues are resolved
 - e. Newport and Four Mile, more analysis has been made of the temporary measures. It was determined a that diversions are needed on both sides for Four Mile, something is also needed at Newport, but that has not been determined yet.
 - f. Farmington and Mountain Rd - the towns analysis of video taken of this intersection was distributed with the meeting materials, plus Alan Blasenstein's response to the town's analysis. Alan had originally raised concerns regarding this location because of right turn on red conflicts with pedestrians using the crosswalk during the pedestrian phase of the traffic signal. Because of connection issues for the meeting which prevented Alan and others from participating, this item will be discussed next month.
 - i. Greg Sommers reviewed the email by Alan Blasenstein, and provided commentary:
 1. The correction is difficult to address from an engineering perspective and enforce. The prohibition was removed because it was not followed.
 2. Colin Gillespie, asked if the reduction in crashes was caused by new improvements?
 - a. Gregg said in the North bound direction they were able to insert a left turn lane at the intersection.
 - g. Repaving is underway at
 - i. Park Rd., Woodrow St, and Taylor Rd.
 - h. Comments from Greg Sommers on road updates
 - i. Park Road, Trout Brook to Quaker Lane South will have bike lanes
- 3) Bicycle Parking and feedback from the Town?
 - a. The Town indicated that there may be some difficulty in locating racks in all the locations forwarded by the Commission. Some are on private property and some (New Britain ave.) are located in statew DOT right of way.

- b. The Town may ask the Commission to reach out to private property owners for some locations
 - c. A full town review of the locations is not yet complete.
- 4) Survey for feedback on the bicycle plan update. Colin Gillespie, Ken Livingston, Jill Morawski are on team to send out survey to residents for feedback on the Town of West Hartford overall pedestrian and bicycle climate.
 - a. Ken has created a draft survey, and able to tailor before sending out to the public.
 - b. Colin raised of the need to gather broader response and thoughtful feedback during the current climate.
 - c. Feedback could be positive and negative depending on perspective
 - d. The current survey will be sent to commission for comments and feedback
- 5) Review of the bicycle plan

The commission will draft proposals for the Town. The plan should be proactive, not reactive. Should be pedestrian and bicycle plan.
- 6) The Town requested we support their application for the community connectivity grant.
 - a. Ken Livingston made a motion seconded by Colin Gillespie, approved by the commission for sandy to write a letter of support and send it to the Town. Approved unanimously.
- 7) Reports from Town Staff : Gregg Sommer
 - a. Mountain and Albany, the Town is still advancing the design, with 2021 spring construction
 - b. Successful in receiving grant through AARP for community livability project: RRFBs (rectangular rapidly flashing beacons) for Fern Street at Morley, and Starkel Road at the senior Center.
 - c. Helen Rubino Turco – sent words through Gregg Thank you to Bike West Hartford Inc and specifically Scott Franklin for coordinating the slow roll.
- 8) New Business: Sandy Fry would like to cease being chair of the commission end of the year. Anyone interested in serving can contact Sandy to learn about responsibilities of the chair
- 9) Updates from Bike West Hartford Inc
 - a. 9 rides were conducted
 - i. All rides were well attended.
 - b. Slow Roll had 75-80 people that some people road through twice with masks.
 - c. The group discussed slow rolls once monthly in 2021
 - d. Bike West Hartford Facebook has 650 members
- 10) Words from Residents
 - a. David Beers, discussed his support for safer streets and use of bicycle lanes within the Town. Also raised concerns for climate and having carbonless transportation.

The following meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2020, at 6:00pm. (Note – after the meeting it was determined that this date and time would not be workable for the town, so the next meeting is now Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm

Meeting adjourned 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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