

MINUTES  
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING  
Monday December 14th 2020 @ 7PM WebEx  
Next Meeting: January 11, 2021

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

A quorum was held starting at 7:05pm

Town Staff in attendance: Matthew Hart, Duane Martin

1. Approval of prior meeting minutes. Ken Livingston moved to adopt the minutes seconded by Jill Morawski, with no objections, the Chair declared the minutes approved.
2. Old Business
  - a. Tribute to former Chair of the WHPBC, MaryEllen Thibodeau, condolences from residents and commission members were made, with Rick Thibodeau in attendance.
  - b. Discussion of next steps in update of Bicycle Plan: The Town's desire is to develop a low stress bicycle network as the backbone of the bicycle network.
    - i. Identify a grid of (3) North to South routes and (3) East West streets.
      - a. The streets discussed N to S
        - i. Mountain/Ridgewood Rd, Main St, Trout Brook, Quaker Ln, Steele Rd/Oakwood Ave., Prospect Ave
      - b. The streets discussed E to W,
        - i. Albany ave., Asylum Ave, Fern St, Farmington Ave., Boulevard, New Britain Ave, Sedgwick/Park Rd
      - c. The commission will provide the Town with list to identify the group. Sandy will ask each commission member to share their ranking of each set. In ranking the streets primary considerations should be accessibility and connectivity regionally.
    - ii. The grid will provide high level facilities, possibly physically protected bike lanes. We want a network that can be used by bicycle commuters and those using bikes for transportation. The focus is not recreation.
    - iii. At this point we do not need to dive into feasibility, that will come next. On some roads, removal of center islands may provide needed width.
  - c. Updates on roadway and trail projects:
    - i. The Town provided designs for Trout Brook trail modifications,
      1. Phase 3:
        - a. Park road to Jackson Avenue. Off the road, Narrow Trout Brook Drive by moving the curb in in some locations. The trail will be built entirely within the public right of way but for some residents. It may feel like it is on their property, the trail will be above the road, at top of curb level.
        - b. width, winter maintenance are questions from Residents

- c. Town is committed to plow in and expects the trail will be popular so adequate width is important.
- d. The Town will re-engage with residents since it has been a few years since the last discussion was had
- e. The Commission did not have any concerns about the proposed design.
- f. Construction scheduled for 2021
- g. The question was raised about the intersection at Park Rd. and Trout Brook – Note: Daniel Johnson has since removed this question as a crosswalk currently exists on the east side of Park Rd and Trout Brook Intersection.
- h. Colin Gillespie, asked the town to consider aesthetically appealing trail
- ii. Other phases are still waiting for approval by funding agencies. Sandy noted that last month the Commission asked about how the trail would proceed north of Duffield where the Trout Brook passes under Trout Brook Drive. The trail will proceed on the west side of trout brook drive north of Duffield, it will not be in the stream corridor at this point,
- d. Permanent 2 lane road changes on Farmington Avenues were discussed with Duane Martin,
  - i. Water main improvements that will directly impact traffic at this time. The town will wait till utility work is done before pursuing permanent traffic calming on Farmington ave.
- e. Update North Main
  - i. once the bridge is complete, they will go to the road diet immediately after the project is completed. The towns website ofr the project can be accessed here: <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/engineering/transportation/north-main-street-road-diet-study>
  - ii. Before the end of the year traffic is likely to shift to the west side of the bridge, so the east side can be constructed. other side is completed
- f. Update on planning projects
  - i. The Town is making considerations to permit accessory dwelling units on residential properties
- g. Survey as prelude to bicycle plan update
  - i. Ken Livingston, the survey has been updated, and will be distributed to the commission for final review
- h. Parking in bike lanes feedback from police department
  - i. enforcement process for bike lanes: Lt. Peter Juda spoke with Sandy Fry, they enforce parking in the bike lanes, you can report the parking in lanes with the police department
  - ii. A sub-committee of the commission is working with resident David Beers on understanding the impact of enforcement within the community

### 3. New Business:

- a. Discussion of Nominations for new Chair and secretary during January 2021 meeting
  - i. Daniel Johnson placed his candidacy for the position of Chairman replacing Chairwoman Sandy Fry
  - ii. Denisse Gutierrez for Board Secretary replacing Daniel Johnson
  - iii. Any other commission members interested are encouraged to discuss with Sandy Fry
  - iv. Elections will take place at the start of the January 2021 meeting
- b. Approval of meeting schedule for calendar year 2021

- i. Daniel Firestone, motion to accept, Ryan Nobrega seconded, no objections by the commission.
  - c. Todd Dumais via Duane Martin, discussed transit-oriented development coming in January 2021 for discussion
  - d. Duane Martin has been adding information to the Town website on the engineering page, there is also an email for resident questions.
    - i. Link here : <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/engineering>
4. Reports from other Commissions:
- a. Bike West Hartford, INC, is researching a memorial for MaryEllen Thibodeau. Contact Ethan Frankel if interested in assisting with this.
  - b. Cycling Without Age, no updates at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm with the next meeting is Schedule for January 11, 2021 via webEx.

Respectfully submitted,

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