

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday January 11th, 2021 @ 7PM WebEx
Next Meeting: February 8th, 2021

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

Community members present: David Beers, Alan Blasenstein, Ethan Frankel, Jay Stange

1. Call to Order, Attendance: Meeting came to order at 7:04 PM
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes: The chair asked for any objections toward the approval of the minutes, hearing non the minutes were approved
3. Old Business
 - a. Election of officers – Dan Johnson elected as new commission chair; Denisse Gutierrez elected as new secretary. Dan Firestone remains as commission vice-chair. New chair Daniel Johnson took the floor at 7:08 PM.
 - i. Colin suggests taking time to pick our 5-7 key priorities, check back in on these on a regular basis. Jill seconds this idea.
 - b. Bicycle network – result of input from Commission members
 - i. Top routes selected by commission members are:
North – south:
Main
Prospect
Mountain/Ridgewood

East – west:
Farmington
New Britain
Albany
Sedgewick/Park
 - ii. Prospect Ave. may be city of Hartford, commission members have mentioned that they would move their vote to Quaker or Oakwood if that is the case.
 - iii. Next step would be to forward this list to the Town.
 - iv. Community members on the call feel strongly that Trout Brook is the most viable route because of the width of the route, number of driveways, current infrastructure, and that it is flatter than Main Street. Community member Alan Blasenstein also mentioned the idea of Trout Brook trail being the main N-S route and building connections from the trail to Bishops Corner and the Center.
 - c. Updates on roadway and trail projects: specifically discuss proposed changes to LaSalle Rd.
 - i. La Salle changes are already implemented.
 - ii. Dan Johnson and Sandy talked to Duane Martin on 1/5/2021, who is currently the acting director of community development in addition to being town engineer.
 - iii. Work will continue through winter/spring on Fern
 - iv. Engineering dept. looking to have North Main road diet in spring

1. If repairing, do they stripe first? Want diet to be on pavement before repairing
 2. If bridgework finished more quickly, will they start diet right away? We don't want to go from bridge construction to 4 lanes and then to 3-lane road diet. Sandy reassured with how they are proceeding
 3. Road diet link on Town engineering page have new resources linked
 - v. Fern Street Bridge project is 90% designed but currently in a holding pattern with the state. Permits are outstanding.
 1. Current estimate is town meetings will start mid-summer 2021 to discuss impact of traffic flow
 2. Want it to take place after main street road diet, which is currently scheduled for summer 2021
 - vi. Town working on annual review of complete streets policy
 - vii. Update on bike map Todd Dumais, Dan Johnson wants to make it one of our 5-7 priorities
 - viii. New park avenue complete streets – town has reached out to Elmwood Association on design
 1. Plan is to finish design in 2021
 - ix. Trout brook trail – 4 remaining sections
 1. Park to Jackson – sending letters to 13 houses
 - a. Land in question is town property, but currently being maintained by property owners
 - b. Public info sessions to be scheduled
 2. Fern to Duffy – mowing responsibility issues have been resolved
 3. Duffy to Asylum - ETA 2022
 4. Town is interested in phase north of Asylum
 - x. Semi diverters on Four Mile and Newport – Riggs has increased car traffic, ~100 cars a day
 - xi. Expanded outdoor dining to return in the spring
 - xii. Traffic signal requirements – prospect and Kane to include audible and vibration alerts; will also have exclusive pedestrian phase.
 - xiii. Sidewalk gap Holbrook/Mountain to be addressed
 - xiv. Farmington and Mountain – new signage in a week
- d. Report on Survey – Ken incorporated comments from Todd Dumais, may be ready to go but need to look at the link.
 - e. Update on planning projects – Town having conversation on ADUs, commission should consider writing a letter in support.
 - f. Bike Parking – Town has applied for and received 10 post and ring bike racks; Alan will go through town's list of issues with current bike parking locations.
4. New Business:
 - a. Request for crosswalk on Mountain Road
 5. Reports
 - a. Town staff updates – no town staff present at meeting.
 - b. Update from Bike West Hartford Inc. –BWH discussing a memorial bench for MaryEllen Thibodeau to be installed at the American School for the Deaf. Will have a meeting with mayor Shari Cantor, ASD, and Town Manager Matt Hart.

- c. Update from Cycling Without Age – there were issues hearing Dan Firestone on the call, will follow up next meeting.
- 6. Next meeting: MONDAY, February 8th, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)
- 7. Adjourn
- 8. Convening of BIKE WEST HARTFORD INC. as needed