

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 10th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order at 7:03 PM. Attendance: Daniel Johnson, Colin Gillespie, Denisse Gutierrez, Ken Livingston, Jill Morawski, Sandy Fry, Paul Hogan, Ryan Nobrega
2. Previous meeting's minutes approved at 7:04 PM.
3. Old Business
 - a. Updates on roadway and trail projects:
 - i. Farmington – West Hartford Center remodified to accommodate outdoor dining
 - ii. Fern Street – Final response received from State and Town has permit. Timing is expected to occur after the North Main St Diet Trial. Sidewalk gap was closed.
 - iii. Four Mile - Permanent installation expected late summer. Meeting was had with Riggs Avenue residents.
 - iv. LaSalle Road - Barriers installed for expanded outdoor dining, permanent painted on Farmington avenue.
 - v. Mountain Road - Sliver widening East Side of mountain Rd North of Main Street - Continuous 5ft bike lane North bound direction on Mountain Rd, close to the same South bound except for approaching South Bound
 - vi. New Park Avenue - Have preliminary design done by June 16th, at which point a public information meeting will be held
 - vii. North Main Street Bridge - Bridge project is on schedule end of June completed.
 - viii. North Main Road Diet - State needs to review timing and phasing for traffic lights, Town has already obtained quotes for signage materials \$5K and pavement markings \$26K (contractor)
 - ix. Trout Brook Trail - Led by Jim Brennan - Added one more signature. Pending State Review Board (needs to be on agenda), then Attorney General
 - b. North Main Street Road Diet Public Meeting Review
 - i. Meeting went well, were braced for people to pushback against the road diet but none of that happened. All seemed positive.
 - ii. Sandy and Daniel Johnson followed up with VHP on their Road Diet Survey since some of the questions implied that the road diet's main purpose was bike lanes rather than pedestrian and motorist safety.
 - iii. Sandy spoke to Duane Martin as well, they moved the 'Take Survey' link down to end of North Main Street Road Diet Study webpage rather than at the very top.
 - iv. Want to be sure that the post-Road Diet survey does not have the same emphases that could be misinterpreted.
4. New Business:
 - a. Carol Waxman (Children's Services Librarian and Library Interim Director) and Pramod Pradhan (Community Engagement Library) from West Hartford Library
 - i. Town Council has authorized Matt Hart to purchase former St Brigid campus for \$3M and turn building into community center. Would accommodate Elmwood Senior Center, Elmwood Community Center, daycare center, Faxon Branch Library, and possibly a gym and meeting rooms. Due diligence is currently being done to the St. Brigid buildings to see if they will be renovated or razed. Community will be invited to express ideas.

1. Jill – Will bus routes be re-routed to get people to the St. Brigid site?
Current site is a longer walk than current locations of Faxon Branch, Elmwood Senior Center and Elmwood Community Center.
 2. Carol – has discussed with Town Manager, looking into van transportation as it is not the safest walk.
- b. West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Survey
 - i. Discussed major takeaways after looking over each question'
 - ii. Draft of memo for Town Council – Denisse to write, Colin as second by this Friday.
 - c. Priorities for Commission 2021-2022
 - i. For next meeting, would like to limit scope of priorities so can focus on one item in each major pillar and start completing milestones.
 - d. Draft Proposal for Town of West Hartford Neighborhood Street Traffic Calming Program
 - i. Sent to us Thursday before meeting, will be presented in June to Town Council
 - ii. Not enough notice was given to commission ahead of our monthly meeting to be able to provide feedback at this meeting.
 - iii. Dan requested notes on program be sent to him by 5/23, will try to schedule an emergency session prior to Town Council meeting so commission can properly discuss.
 - e. Hartford, CT Launches Electric Scooter share system
 - i. Scooters are Link scooters that currently only available in downtown area, so they stop moving once they reach the end of their radius, but eventually be opened up to entire city of Hartford.
 - ii. There are 100 scooters in downtown, need to work on messaging on where to park them so they are not obstructing sidewalks.
 - iii. Reason scooter share came before bike share is due to the economics, bike shares require a corporate sponsor.
 - f. Updates gathered from BiCi Co.
 - i. Hartford Protected Bike Lanes
 1. There were some horrendous fatalities on Wethersfield avenue, city decided they really needed to do something.
 2. Southbound side bikes will be protected for traffic by parking, northbound will have painted delineator posts.
 3. Will all be installed this year.
5. Reports
 - a. Update from Bike West Hartford Inc
 - i. Primarily working on memorial for MaryEllen Thibodeau at ASD.
 - ii. Raised \$6,600 so far, need about \$15,000.
 - iii. There is information on Bike West Hartford site to both donate to the memorial and become a member.
 6. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM