

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 12th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order, Attendance
 - a. Quorum at 7:05 PM, members in attendance:
Daniel Firestone
Colin Gillespie
Denisse Gutierrez
Paul Hogan
Daniel Johnson
Ken Livingston
Jill Morawski
Ryan Nobrega
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
 - a. Ryan Nobrega moved to accept; Paul Hogan seconded. Minutes approved at 7:07 PM.
3. Old Business
 - a. Updates on Roadways and Trail Projects – Daniel Johnson had a call with Duane Martin on 7/6
 - i. Fern street bridge
 1. Permits have been received.
 - ii. Four Mile
 1. Still on track for fall 2021.
 - iii. North Main Street Bridge Delay –
 1. Contractor is facing setbacks due to trouble keeping water out from underneath the bridge. Fortunately, they can work on the top while the bridge work underneath is delayed. Consultants have been notified of delay. This delay on the bridge project will cause a delay of the start of the Main Street Road Diet by a few weeks. Bridge delay will be ~4-week delay, now estimated to be done mid-August.
 - iv. Milestones for Trout Brook Trail
 1. Agreement reached on maintenance, current ETA of spring 2022.
 - v. North Main Street - other
 1. Will be installing traffic cameras on North Main Street to monitor traffic. Video will not be recorded and cannot be used by law enforcement; they are only to be used to monitor traffic in real time.
 - b. Review Traffic Calming Program
 - i. Town's response to our notes on the traffic calming boil down to the point that the program is specifically only for neighborhood streets and is not meant for arterial roads.
 - ii. The commission's position is that the town should be more forthcoming about addressing the speeds and dangers on arterial roads, as studies show that 2/3 of bike deaths occur on arterial roads.
 - iii. The town's response mentioned that if the program proposed is successful, they may look into including arterial roads or creating a program for those types of roads. This seems to imply the current traffic calming program is a sort of 'pilot' program.
 - iv. Other programs like this in other areas seem to have an end date where the town would assess whether the program is working or not, this one by the Town does not seem to have such an end date.

- v. Ultimately, the commission feels this traffic calming program is for pleasure and quietude and not for safety.
 - c. Review WH PBC Survey
 - i. Survey was added to town site just prior to meeting.
- 4. New Business
 - a. Introduction to Police Representative
 - i. 3 representatives from the West Hartford Police Department were in attendance tonight. They explained that there are usually 8-10 officers on duty per shift and would consider each shift to be properly staffed. However, it is when busy days occur that traffic enforcement falls in their priorities which is not something they can anticipate ahead of time.
 - ii. From their perspective, they see that the changes made to Fern and Boulevard have helped with pedestrian and bicycle safety.
 - b. Board of Education
 - i. Idea was brought up that perhaps we could propose a program that does not require bikes as that is where conversations broke down the last time we discussed with the Board of Ed.
 - ii. Small group of commission members will try to set meeting with Board.
 - c. West Hartford Leisure Services
 - i. Commission would like to keep the ball rolling on the idea of having a pedestrian and bicycle safety playground installed in one of our parks.
 - 1. Mayor Shari Cantor had expressed interest in the idea.
 - d. Year End 2021 Commission Member Term Limits and Interested People
 - i. The following are the term ending dates for the current commission members:

Sandy Fry	2021
Daniel Johnson	2021
Jill Morawski	2021
Colin Gillespie	2023
Paul Hogan	2023
Ryan Nobrega	2023
Daniel Firestone	2024
Denisse Gutierrez	2024
Ken Livingston	2024
- 5. Bike West Hartford Inc
 - a. Memorial for MaryEllen Thibodeau funding goal has been met, ended up raising \$15,500. Should take 1-2 weeks to build, will be done by 8/6 and may have a formal unveiling on 8/7. Memorial will be a 6 ft. bench and small plaque.
 - b. Center Street 2021 planning is underway, town has agreed to give BWH half of the total cost of the event, so now will cost closer to \$3-4k. Looking for sponsors as well as volunteers, event to be held 8/29 9 AM – 1 PM.
- 6. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM