

**MINUTES**  
**WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order, Attendance
  - a. Call to order at 7:29 PM. Members in attendance: Daniel Johnson, Ken Livingston, Colin Gillespie, Paul Hogan, Denisse Gutierrez.
  - b. Duane Martin in attendance virtually.
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
  - a. Last meeting's minutes approved at 7:32 PM.
3. Old Business
  - a. Updates on Roadways and Trail Projects
    - i. Trout Brook Trail
      1. Phase 5
        - a. Currently is out to bid, highest bidder is someone the town has never worked with before. Need to have pre-award meeting, if goes well then will sign contract. Next step after that would be to conduct public information meeting.
        - b. There are 8 households behind this part of the trail.
        - c. Are on a tight timeline due to DEEP grant which funds 1/3 of project that expires in February.
        - d. Length of section ~3,000 feet, 12-foot trail with 10 ft of it paved.
        - e. Will have a grade drop between sidewalk elevation and trail.
      2. Phase 6
        - a. Aligned with flood-controlled shelf for most of section, like phase 5.
        - b. Had previously been held up by agreement between state and town on who would be responsible for maintenance, agreement has not been executed.
        - c. Considered a state project, will start in spring 2022.
      3. Phase 3
        - a. Off road on the west side, will go in front of 13 houses closer to Jackson.
    - ii. North Main Street Road Diet
      1. Early Feedback from Town, Consultant and Engineers
        - a. Vast majority of feedback is positive: Traffic has reduced, feels calmed, safer to walk on sidewalk, easier to get to roadways from side streets.
        - b. Any call of email received regarding the road diet is sent to consultants to keep track of all feedback as well as when it was given.
        - c. There is still some confusion on how to use the center turn lane.
        - d. Some complaints about traffic backing up since school has started, but most traffic takes one light cycle.
          - i. Are considering re-timing the traffic signals to improve coordination and address the backing up of traffic.
        - e. No emergency vehicle complaints.
        - f. Town has sent out one survey already, will send another later.
        - g. There are two (now four) traffic cameras in operation that select town staff and consultants have access to, added for the sole purpose of monitoring the road diet.

- i. One on north end and one on south end of road diet, as well as two new ones on Fern and Asylum.
    - h. Consultants have also come out to do in-person observations.
    - i. Consultants are calculating the travel time to see if there has been a change, Duane did not know it off the top of his head.
    - j. Traffic volumes down several thousands of vehicles.
  - iii. Bicycle Facilities Parking on New Britain Avenue and Park Road
    - 1. Town applied for and received grant for 19 bike hitches.
    - 2. CRCOG fiscal year begins in October, will procure racks and send them to Town then.
    - 3. Prioritizing New Britain Ave and Park Road from Main to New Park.
  - b. Discussion about POCD, arterial and collector road surveys and prioritization
    - i. Meeting with commission members, Town staff, and Ed scheduled for Wednesday 9/29 at 4 PM.
- 4. New Business
  - a. No response from Board of Education.
  - b. West Hartford Leisure Services
    - i. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Playground
      - 1. Don't have blacktop space available, are currently at capacity on paved space.
      - 2. Suggested Webster Hill as a school that has paved space, suggested reaching out to Board of Education.
    - c. Town resident made a comment at Center Streets about bump outs and center islands on Farmington Ave and general lack of safety for cyclists between Quaker and Main St.
      - i. He noted that when riding westward from Quaker to Trout Brook cyclists lose space due to a second lane that starts at the light on Trout Brook which is also when an incline up to North Main begins. Creates a precarious situation for cyclists.
      - ii. Duane responded to the complain relayed by explaining the timeline of those bump outs and islands being added to Farmington.
- 5. Bike West Hartford Inc
  - a. Nightfall puppet show at Keney Park on October 8<sup>th</sup>, are organizing a ride from West Hartford Town Hall.
- 6. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.