

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 9th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order, Attendance
 - a. Sandy Fry, Paul Hogan, Denisse Gutierrez, Dan Firestone, Colin Gillespie (on phone) in attendance.
 - b. Quorum held at 7:06 PM.
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
 - a. Colin moved to approve minutes; Paul seconded. Minutes approved at 7:08 PM.
3. Old Business
 - a. Updates on Roadways and Trail Projects

Duane is down a staff person, hopes to attend September meeting.

 - i. Four Mile:
 1. Riggs residents had mixed reaction to the permeance of diverter. Town has met with Riggs residents, sent survey. 59% of invitations responded, majority want semi-diverters on Riggs.
 2. Sandy suggested we ask Duane at the next meeting about allowing bikes through all these permanent semi-diverters.
 - ii. North Main Street Bridge Delay
 1. Road diet has started. Temp traffic will be bagged for road diet, kept up in the event service on bridge is needed, Sidewalk is in bad shape Town is requiring repaving (not acceptable). Road restriping to begin next week, completed by Thursday of next week with paint, signage, etc.
 - iii. Timeline for Trout Brook Trail
 1. Public information will be held once contractor is selected for each phase. Phase 3 still in design (Preliminary is done but town is down staff member). Phase 5 will go out to bid August 2021 - Fern to Farmington Avenue section. Bid opening date is September 1st, start of construction with completion end of calendar year 2021. Phase 6 is the works but nothing for bid (eta Winter 2021) Duffield to Fern: this is CRGOG project so has longer process and commitment to fund letter.
 2. Bidding set to open is for the Paving contractor.
 3. Members present wondered if the Farmington to Fern section will be in front of people's homes. Sandy suggested we ask Duane to bring a copy of the designs and perhaps a map to the next meeting.
 - iv. Speed hump installation on Grove Street
 1. Members present noted they had no issue with speed humps as they are more gradual, unlike the older speed bump.
 - v. Accessible Pedestrian signal improvements
 1. Town won a grant from Public Works; Sandy noted the town should be commended as this is a competitive grant.
 2. Will have funding to do a total of 15 crosswalks, to start this year.

3. The accessible pedestrian signal will have a tone or speak to you, and they also consider ambient noise so they are not too loud when people cross in the evening when it's quiet.
 4. New Business
 - a. Board of Education
 - i. Request to discuss sent to Duane Martin
 1. Dan Firestone noted that he interviewed all the board candidate on the democratic ticket. Said they all had favorable answers when asked about bike education.
 - ii. Public Input
 - b. West Hartford Leisure Services
 - i. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Playground
 1. Meeting scheduled August 9th, 2021 AM
 - a. Had to be rescheduled, looking for new dates for that meeting.
 - c. Resident Edward Pawlak asked for follow up with Town on arterial and collector road reporting as listed on POCD
 - i. The statement in the Plan of Conservation Data (POCD) came when Ed requested the Town create a crash committee, and when they said no the compromise was that they would add a stated in the POCD that they would: "Conduct a Town-wide road safety study, with a particular focus on high crash corridors, that identifies the causes of increased rates of crashes, proposes solutions, and provides a program for monitoring progress."
 - ii. Ed is requesting the Town come up with a road map for tackling this problem and to provide an annual update on what progress has been made.
 - iii. Paul noted that this is a large problem all over town and brainstormed how to address it to the Town. Suggested Todd Dumais as a point person to reach out to. Sandy agrees with reaching out to Todd as PNZ oversees the POCD.
 - d. Discuss items for September 2021 Agenda attended by Town Engineer Duane Martin
 - i. Members present noted to ask Daniel Johnson to ask Duane to bring the Trout Brook Trail designs for phase 3 to the next meeting, as we could not remember what they were exactly since it had been a while since we last saw them.
5. Bike West Hartford Inc
 - a. Memorial for MaryEllen Thibodeau is complete and was a big success. BWH raised \$15,000 in donations and the Town really cooperated. Points to things that can be done in town by everyday people.
 - b. Center Streets in fast approaching! Town agreed to pay for half the cost, so only need to raise \$3-4k and have already raised \$3,000.
 - c. Cycling Without Age is up and running again.
6. Adjourn
 - a. Commission meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.