

**MINUTES**  
**WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION**

**\*\*\* VIRTUAL MEETING \*\*\***

**Monday, February 7th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order, Attendance
  - a. Call to order at 7:39 PM
  - b. Denisse Gutierrez, Daniel Johnson, Ed Pawlak, Paul Hogan, Collin Gillespie, Ken Livingston, Jill Morawski, Daniel Firestone
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
  - a. Minutes approved at 7:40 PM
3. Old Business
  - a. Engineering Updates – North Main Street
    - i. Matt Hart now with CROG, Rick Ledwith is the interim Town Manager. Duane Martin now head of Community Development, open engineering spot. In the meantime, Greg Sommer and Todd Dumais will be our points of contact.
    - ii. Public information meeting for North Main Street to occur mid-April
  - b. Draft Letter on 920 Farmington Ave connectivity
    - i. Ken started drafting the letter, but development at 920 was approved at their last January meeting.
4. New Business
  - a. Welcome Edward Pawlak to Commission!
    - i. Ed a familiar face at meetings, helps to put on Center Streets with Bike West Hartford.
  - b. Commission vote on new chair
    - i. Ed Pawlak willing to take it on, even though has only just joined the commission
    - ii. Dan Firestone motions Ed Pawlak as chair, Colin Gillespie seconds
    - iii. Daniel Firestone, Colin, Ken, Jill, Paul, Denisse in favor. Ed voted in as new chair.
  - c. Calendar Year 2022 Commission Goals
    - i. Items to focus on for Calendar Year 2022
      1. Jill warns not to move towards ideals, recommends we return to something the town has endorsed, referring to our transportation map for cycling. Let's push on some of the main routes that connect, we should go back and make sure we have safe routes through town.
      2. Ed made a list of things he was hoping commission could accomplish and revisiting Bicycle Facilities Map and to see if we want to update the

aspirations we had a few years ago and ask for more than we did back then.

3. Colin mentions doing survey again, thinks it will back up a speed limit reduction.
4. Ed would like to push for a report from Town on where in town crashes have occurred with pedestrians or cyclists. Would like to see this commission look to that empirical data – whether we generate it ourselves from the crash repository or obtain data from the police department, whether we get it on annual or quarterly basis – so we can see if there are particular areas in town where these things are happening repeatedly and bring it up to the Town.
5. Ken feels we need to continue to figure out our partnership and our role in the town. Have had meetings with Todd and Duane, not sure if it has moved beyond that to the major decision makers in town. Become more integrated into the town process, less reactionary to Town decisions.
6. Paul noted influx of several new developments in Town in the near future, wonders what it means for mobility in town. Perhaps being integrated into that process earlier would be beneficial.
7. Ed noted that Complete Streets policy adopted by the Town requires the Town to go through a Complete Streets analysis any time there is a new project that may affect positively or negatively pedestrian and bicycle access. If they don't adopt Complete Streets recommendation, they have to provide justification for that.
8. Jill notes that with several recent developments, the commission finds out about them very late and the plans are far along. Additionally, cannot remember a big plan in which they did not have a waiver of Complete Streets. Duane has been very good at giving us a heads up on street repaving, sometimes even a year ahead, but he's the only one that has let us into planning with any time to do anything. We need to persuade some of the management in Town that we need this information earlier.
9. Ed would like to see commission push Town on dimensions of center turning lane on North Main Street road diet to discourage motorists using it as a center turning lane.

#### ii. Public Input

1. Resident Dan Johnson brought up article in WSJ about reducing traffic speed and noted that in 2021 there was some transportation policy that gives Town more flexibility on reducing posted speed limits. Would like to see speed limits within town drop down 5 MPH.
2. Resident Jay Stange thanks Dan Johnson's for his work with the commission. Firmly believes North Main will be a successful road diet and that in coming years the public will see an opportunity to creating

protected bike lanes on North Main. Would hope that commission could maintain a good communication strategy with the Town as we transition away from Matt Hart in order to make sure our two main routes (N/S North Main and E/W Farmington) are routes that we can work to provide additional amenities and protections for non-motorized travelers.

3. Resident Ethan Frankel congratulates Ed and thanks Dan as well.
- d. February Meeting appointments, openings, and agenda
  - i. Not discussed.
5. Adjourn
  - a. Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM

**Convening of BIKE WEST HARTFORD INC. as needed**