

***West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes***

***Monday July 11, 2022, 7 PM***

***Room 24, Elmwood Community Center***

**1. Call to Order, Attendance**

Ed Pawlak, Sandy Fry, Colin Gillespie, Jill Morawski

**2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

Approval of 06/13 meeting minutes deferred until next meeting

**3. Old Business**

a. Ed summarized Sustainability Advisory Group joint-commission meeting on 27 June. He described the proposal for an "umbrella" organization overseeing 3 commissions, including PBC. Commission members discussed advantages and disadvantages of reporting to an umbrella organization. Suggestions were made about the structure and function of the proposed umbrella organization and suggestions for maintaining PBC's autonomy. The commission agreed that we should invite a town staff member to an upcoming PBC monthly meeting in order to address the questions and concerns that were raised by the commission. Ed agreed to do so.

b. Status of proposed Transit-Oriented Development Zoning District covering a quarter-mile radius around the two Fast-track stops in West Hartford. Ed spoke in support of the TOD on behalf of PBC at a recent Town Council meeting. It was approved without objection.

c. New community center advisory committee. Sandy Fry, member of the advisory committee, spoke on the proposed plans for revising/replacing the Elmwood community center. All are encouraged to share their comments and ideas with Sandy.

**4. New Business**

a. PBC August recess (no PBC meeting) was discussed. Colin proposed a recess (no meeting) in August. Motion was discussed and passed.

b. PBC vacancy update. Denise G. and Ryan O. have resigned from the commission. Ed announced these vacancies and 4 candidates came forward. Ed forwarded the names to town clerk.

c. Phone call with DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. Ed spoke with DOT Bicycle/Pedestrian coordinator, who stated that a town can initiate a safe streets project on state roads. He learned that the town must have bicycle network plan to do

so (New Britain is an example of such projects). The Coordinator noted possibilities for funding via Connectivity grants and Build-Back-Better.

d. Engineering updates. Ed outlined updates on street repaving and Trout Brook Trail construction.

e. P&Z updates – none to report

f. New Park Avenue “Walk Audit”: This was held last week, and was coordinated by Transport Hartford. (Details on Bike West Hartford website.) Jack Dougherty shared plans for the walk audit on New Park.

g. New Park Avenue Complete Streets site plan review - The commission discussed several potential modifications to the site plans. Ed will prepare a draft letter to the Town Engineer containing these recommended modifications, and will distribute the draft letter to the commissioners for review and editing. Ed will send the finalized letter to the Town Engineer.

## **5. Announcements**

a. Upcoming Connecticut Transportation Institute Road Safety Assessment Workshops

b. Bike West Hartford, Inc. revitalization - Jack Doherty discussed the plans to revitalize BWH.

## **6. Input for next PBC meeting - none**

## **7. Adjourn**