

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

***Monday November 7, 2022, 7 PM***

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

1. Call to Order, Attendance: Ed Pawlak (chair), Paul Hogan, Sandy Fry, Colin Gillespie, Ken Livingston (constituting a quorum)
2. Introductions: Rick Ledwith (town manager), Duane Martin (Director of Community Development); 18 members of the public (some from Bike West Hartford (BWH), some from Fern St.)
3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes: On a motion by Paul, seconded by Colin, the minutes as sent out were adopted unanimously.
4. Old Business
  - a. League of American Bicyclists "Bicycle Friendly Community" application. Duane Martin explained how the application was prepared. He had expected to have time to reach out to the PBC and BWH before the application needed to be submitted, but ended up not having that time. He had answered an early question in the application saying the collaboration had happened, and failed to change that answer before the app. went in. When the mistake was discovered, he decided it would be best to withdraw the application and undertake the collaboration before resubmitting in February. Plan to apply for silver level recognition (currently have bronze). BWH sent a memo to the town dated 11/4/22 requesting that the Town collaborate. After some discussion, the commission decided that Paul and Sandy will serve on a committee to dive into the application. They will coordinate with BWH so that a discussion of the application can happen before the 12/12 PBC meeting. Duane will send the application in word format to Ed and he will send it to the Commission and his broader circulation list. All PBC members are asked to review the current application and can share thoughts with Sandy and Paul.
  - b. West Hartford Center Infrastructure Master Plan update: Duane explained that the study is looking at many things: some of the "tired" elements of the streetscape, the lack of bike facilities, balancing dining in street options, parking. Lots of things in mix. Web page is regularly updated. Had 1 public outreach. Next step is engaging boards and commissions. Stantec, consultant for project, is interested in coming to Dec 12 PBC meeting. May also want a couple members of PBC to represent the commission in a stakeholder group. At the 12/12 meeting, Stantec will present and will look for input. January sometime (10 am to 8 pm) will be next major public input session. Next week Stantec should be able to send us some info that we can review and perhaps provide questions/suggestions that they can be prepared to react to. Will start 12/12 meeting ½ hour early (6:30 pm) to enable plenty of time for Stantec and for other items on agenda.

c. Fern Street traffic calming: residents have formally asked for traffic calming on Fern Street, both east and west of Main Street.. There have been several high speed crashes on Fern in last two years and residents noted the problems have gotten worse. With school bus stops, children walking to school, there is concern that there could be a fatality. Problems were noted in the Walbridge vicinity, Quaker to Penn, and at Arundel. Residents are asking the Town to look at crashes and speed data and try to come up with solutions to calm traffic. An individual who lives on High Farms indicated that they have problems there with speeding “cut through” traffic, but they do not meet the Town’s criteria for traffic calming. Duane indicated these follow-ups – he will talk to the engineering department to find out where their investigations are for Fern and High Farms. He noted that the Town’s traffic calming manual purposely does not include collectors and arterials because emergency responders do not want traffic calming on arterials and collectors, though the town has been able to do some traffic calming on this type of street. The problems at Fern and Auburn are similar to Boulevard/Four Mile issues.

The Town Plan of Conservation and development does have a goal to identify and address high crash locations. Additionally, the Town intends to update bike facility plan. There is funding to hire a consultant to address these 2 issues. Will share scope for this study with PBC, for comment and input. Once consultant hired, will be about a 6 month project. Once we have recommendations, we then have to prioritize implementation. On a motion by Sandy, seconded by Colin, the commission unanimously agreed to send a letter to the town supporting the requests for traffic calming measures on Fern and High Farms. Jay Stange told residents that Transport Hartford could set up walk audits for the 2 roads.

## 5. New Business

a. PBC 2023 meeting calendar, January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 10 (a Tuesday to avoid the Monday holiday), November 13, December 11.

b. Engineering updates: Ed spoke to Greg Sommer, for New Park Ave. still reviewing the alternatives we suggested. Will report by Dec mtg. Trout Brook Trail phase 6, Fern to Duffield, expect to begin this year. Duffield to Asylum (phase 7,) expect to do next year, also phase 3, Jackson to Park will be done next year. Recently 4 new bike parking racks were installed on New Britain Ave, 6 will go in on Park Road.

c. P&Z updates: Todd Dumais update – we seem to be missing opportunities to give input on development projects. Todd has invited us to help him develop a “ped-bike” zoning ordinance that require projects of particular size, etc, to provide bike parking, bike storage, ped access. Todd will come to one of our upcoming meetings to discuss this type collaboration.

d. Bicycle Network Map revision: Ed shows existing bike facility map. Ed asked that proposed facilities be removed from the map. PBC will come up with recommendations which can be input to consultant that Town will hire.

Other: PBC annual summary report – when is this due? Is our commission at full complement? - no

Town's gis has been updated to include bike network. This is available to public

6. Announcements - none

7. Input for next PBC meeting on 12/12/22 - none

8. Adjourn: 8:37 p.m.