

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

**Monday June 12, 2023, 7:00 PM**

**Room 400, Town Hall**

### **1. Call to Order 7:04 pm**

- Commission Attendance: Ed Pawlak, Colin Gillespie, Jen Bowan, Ed Perzanowski, Jill Morawski, Paul Hogan, John Wenz

**2. Introductions** - Community Members, Law Enforcement Sgt Ed Jacovino; and Tom, Evan and Kim representing Boulevard neighborhood

**3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes** - motion to approve Jill M seconded Jen B.

Approved

### **NEW Agenda Item: Sgt Ed Jacovino - traffic stops and crashes.**

- 2016 6K stops and 2800 crashes
- 2022 4.7K stops and 2300 crashes
- 2023 (to date) 3.8K stops and under 1000 crashes
- Indicated there are more police on roads, vacancies have been mostly filled
- Distracted driving twice the ticket occurrence to speeding
- Commissioner asked about speed cameras at lights - Sgt indicated the actual use and execution is still to be decided. As a resident he is all for it.
- Discussed if cameras will actually slow speeding more than an actual monitoring police squad car...agreed not a conclusive statement at this point

### **4. Old Business**

#### **a. Boulevard restriping status and discussion**

- Informed commission that green paint (cat tracks and rectangles) for this section would be \$58K (more than 1/2 of 2023 \$100K annual paint budget)...indicating it is cost prohibitive. Recommendation that upcoming WH budgets include sufficient funding for green paint treatments of bike lanes.
- Question about raised cross walks as recommended by Commission. Explained that these are basically speed "humps."
- Mentioned that vertical delineators in the buffer zone are to be delayed until upcoming FHI Studio bike facility plan recommendations are clear.
- Requested that Bike Boxes be covered for future FHI Studio analysis.
- Ed Pawlak brought up issue in letter to editor and emails about reduced parking on Boulevard.
- Community members at meeting wanted these reduced parking recommendations addressed. Community member indicated that taking away parking will devalue home and life. Stated that taking away parking will hurt residents who need the parking (some for music lessons). 100s of signatures will be delivered.
- What are options to change? Issue of adding back parking is that bike connectivity would be sacrificed.
- Ed Pawlak recommended that commission share their opinion/response via an email/letter. He noted that commission response is in alignment with town complete streets policy. 5 of 7 commission members supported writing the letter and it will be shared.

- Resident suggested more education for all drivers.
- Resident suggested reduced parking could be taken in concert with permitted parking so there would be enough parking for protected resident parking spaces (big idea but comprehensive in cost and important to/conflict with other special interest groups).

**b. Vision Zero Task Force: Summary of June 5 meeting**

- Task Force had reviewed vision zero of Tacoma WA and Jersey City NJ. Ed Pawlak shared from NJ plan 1) high injury network map (will be included in WH) 2) equity a focus of NJ plan (marginalized populations often more negatively impacted) 3) community engagement important in NJ plan (will also be for WH) 4) themes including safe streets, traffic calming, safety in NJ plan 5) Jersey City came up with specific plans and performance measures by theme (recommend for WH plan)
- Ed Pawlak shared about Task Force that the meetings seemed scattered at first due to no experience with Vision Zero, but are now organized and focused (consultants running meetings now).

**5. New Business**

**a. League of American Bicyclists “Bicycle Friendly Community” West Hartford**

**application status** - Confirmed that WH Got the Bronze Status and is good for 4 years. Thanks to efforts of all who contributed.

**b. Engineering update** – Trout Brook Trail phase 6 continuing in 2023, phase 7 in 2023, phase 3 still being designed, but could be completed in 2024.

**c. P&Z updates** - no update.

**d. In the News**

- a. Substitute Bill No. 5917 – “An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Vision Zero Council” (Among other things, legalizes the use of automated traffic safety cameras)

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-05917-R01-HB.PDF>

Commissioner stated that vendors need to be watched so that don’t make too much off WH.

**6. Around Town**

- **North Main Street** - flashing beacon pedestrian signal is now fully visible

- **Near Misses/Close Calls:** residents share stories of near crashes (to be covered in July meeting)

**7. Announcements** - From BikeWH booth at Celebrate West Hartford - volunteers shared that many folks want more bike infrastructure in town

**8. 7/10/2023 PBC meeting** - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak ([ecosys88@gmail.com](mailto:ecosys88@gmail.com))

**9. Adjourn** 8:47 pm - Motion and 2nd to adjourn passed

Of note: Paul will take minutes July 10 as Colin will be traveling