

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday July 10, 2023, 7:00 PM

Room 400, Town Hall

Masks are recommended, not required

1. Call to Order, Attendance
 - Ed Pawlak
 - Jen Bowman
 - Ed Perzanowski
 - Paul Hogan
 - Jill Morawski
 - Tristin Sokol
 - John Wenz
2. Introductions -2 town residents, bike west Hartford reps
3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
 - Motion: John, second: Jen – unanimous
4. Old Business
 - Discussed the formation of a new committee to research the costs of green paint treatments in bicycle facilities (e.g., cat tracks, green background for bike symbol, etc.). Ed Perzanowski and John volunteered to serve on this committee. Jill motion, Jen second. Unanimous.
 - a. Boulevard restriping status
 - i. Town had planned to vote at recent CPED meeting, but it was removed from agenda. The town plans to request input from FHI Studio consultants on this matter. It's not clear how long this will be in limbo. Greg Sommer did not have a timeline on the town getting input from FHI. Commission agreed to submit a letter to town which will reinforce the point that creating a discontinuity in the proposed restriping plan would be inconsistent with the town Complete Streets Policy. Also discussed whether Trout Brook Drive should have received an evaluation during its repaving.
 - ii. Vote to draft letter on points discussed: Motion, Ed Perzanowski; second John. Unanimous.

b. Vision Zero Task Force: Summary of June 26 meeting

- June 26th meeting – The Vision Zero subcommittees were given an assignment to begin working on action plan components. This will be an opportunity for the town stakeholder groups to provide input to the consultants, who will be responsible for drafting the final document. August is the input deadline to consultants. Ed Pawlak explained that the consultants will begin working on revising the town Bicycle Facility Plan once they complete work on the Vision Zero Action Plan.

5. New Business

a. Engineering update

- Greg Sommer will provide a map of 15 intersection signal improvements. ADA enhanced. 2 locations in place, 13 more in the pipeline – Ed Pawlak will distribute upon receipt.
- Bishops Corner – State DOT improvement project – virtual public meeting 7pm this Thursday the 13th. Removing slip lanes and pedestrian islands in proposal will make it safer for pedestrians to cross this dangerous intersection. A separate discussion ensued about why bike lanes in town are not typically carried into an intersection. Why doesn't the town have any green bike boxes? Perhaps apply this to the DOT design at Bishops Corner. What is enough space for the turn box?
- Trout Brook Trail – paving this week – landscaping in fall. Phase 6 – shooting for august open. Phase 7. How to get people from Duffield to Asylum? – ask for clarification.

b. P&Z updates

- Reached out to Todd Dumais, did not receive a reply.

c. New Britain Avenue Walk Audit

- Fri June 30th was the walk audit, which was organized by Bike West Hartford. 20 people attended. See audit report on bikewesthartford.org website. BWH is currently compiling notes. Will do a second walk audit from Quaker Lane to Hartford in the near future. New Britain Avenue is a state road.

d. Sidewalk gaps in town

- Nick Lurie – value of sidewalks comes with connectivity. Bugbee School path to Fulton on Brookside Drive – gap. You can't build sidewalk unless homeowner approve it under current town policy. Fox Chase from Asylum to Porter – missing sidewalk. Look at the priority of gaps, schools. Look to update policy. Ed Pawlak said that he will advocate for these action items to be included in the Vision Zero plan.

e. In the News

- a. Report: Connecticut State Troopers falsified data on traffic stops reported to racial profiling board

Topic deferred until August meeting.

6. Around Town

- Near Misses/Close Calls: residents share stories of near crashes

Topic deferred until August meeting.

7. Announcements

- Bike Walk Connecticut Bloomfield ride scheduled for September 17th. 330 Park Ave – Ed Pawlak to circulate with other bike ride (Rotary International).
- Jill – Farmington Valley Trails August 19th lobster ride – 30 mile ride – Ed Pawlak will circulate

8. 8/14/2023 PBC meeting - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak (ecosys88@gmail.com)

9. Adjourn

8:31 p.m. – Ed Perzanowski, motion, Tristin second. Unanimous