

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 10, 2023, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order 7:03 PM

Attendance

Ed Pawlak

Jill Morawski

Paul Hogan

Jen Bowman

Ed Perzanowski

Colin Gillespie

Jon Wenz

2. Introductions - Jack Dougherty - Bike West Hartford

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes - Motion to approve Jill Morawski and 2nd Jen Bowman and approved unanimously

4. Old Business

a. Vision Zero Task Force update

- Sept 19 Vision Zero meeting, Ed Pawlak attended
- Nearly 1000 responses to survey - web map had numerous pins dropped in with great ideas.
- approximately 40% of respondents indicated they do some level of cycling in town
- Ed Pawlak asked Chief Riddick (Chief of Police) about traffic stops. The Chief indicated that in 2023 there almost 2X as many traffic stops as there were 2022 Sept YTD.
- Technical memorandums circulated at meeting to be reviewed by task force. On 10/16 they will be reviewed and later made public.
- Vision Zero said that on Oct 24 there will be a road safety audit of Park Road.

- FHI will attend a PBC meeting in the future (TBD) - so Ed Pawlak recommends that we share what we would like to see in the bicycle network map.
- Jill Morawski shared verbally the original reasons/wish list for a bicycle network map. She asked that these early ideas/guidelines be considered to create prioritization.
- Some would like to see bus stops, crosswalks, and even economic level indicated on the map.
- Jack asked about early task force recommendations - Ed Pawlak indicated that these are included in new draft version.
- Goals, strategies, and actions as well as High Injury Network (HIN) map will be discussed at the Task Force meeting next week.
- Jack asked about Road Safety Audit - is time set in stone for Oct 24 1-4 pm? Jack asked - are enough people being encouraged to attend this? Ed Pawlak asked that Jack contact Duane Martin on this.

5. New Business

a. Engineering update

- New Park Ave Road Diet - VHB consultant will be taking over designing the project. Final concept design will be available by EOY 2023. Out to bid summer of 2024. Construction EOY 2024 or start of 2025.
- Trout Brook Trail- Phase 6 recently completed, seems to be of high use and of very high quality ... Colin asked could a bike lane be considered on Trout Brook road itself?
- Phase 7 - not built yet Duffield to Asylum. Survey stakes are up ... to be constructed in fall 2023.
- South Quaker Lane - road re-surfacing project - design modified based on commission meeting input. Buffered bike lanes on both sides.

b. P&Z update

- no response for past few months
- Of note UConn redevelopment plan is currently being reviewed by Town Council only with respect to a proposed amendment to the official wetlands map. The Council is not yet reviewing the proposed redevelopment plan.

6. Around Town

- Fernsridge Park construction ... pedestrians attempting to enter crosswalk being ignored by motorists. Jill recommended a "cyclist entering lane" sign on east bound side due to the "Jersey barriers" which have been in place for a long time.
- Crosswalk in front of library on South Main (where pedestrian was seriously injured when struck by a motor vehicle early 2023). The crosswalk does not

contain “zebra stripes”. Jen Bowman mentioned that cars have been seen going wrong way on South Main Street. Ed Pawlak mentioned he witnessed a car going through red light here with a pedestrian in crosswalk. Ed Pawlak mentioned RRFB (rapid rectangular flashing beacon) could make this crosswalk more visible. Ed Pawlak asked if there was motivation for lobbying town for more of these RRFBs (or a tool like this to make motorists more aware of ped crossing)

- Commission also discussed South Main and Farmington (note: to be addressed in master Plan).
- Jill mentioned the need to educate pedestrians about use of cross walks.
- Jack mentioned Fern and Steele intersection. He stated town may barriers to new ideas (vertical signs, etc) if maintenance not taken up by residents/businesses on own. Jack recommended Vision Zero prioritize pedestrian crossing safety solutions. Let’s put some priority on this study. He noted: these intersections have been deemed dangerous by outside consultants.
- Tracy Frankel mentioned that there needs to be uniformity in cross walk design. Would help both pedestrians and motorists.
- Homework: Ed Pawlak challenged all on commission to look for priority cross walk areas at mid-block non-signalized intersections or even at schools. Bring to next commission meeting or send ahead of time to him.
- Cycling Without Age - This is a Bike West Hartford initiative Jack reviewed the use of cycle assist tri-cycle in WH. Jack asked if anyone wants to volunteer - contact Kevin Sullivan.
- KP Bike Bus (bikes pick each other up as cyclists going stop to stop). Another Bike West Hartford initiative, organized by Jay Stange. Great town support with 3 police cars and 2 police bikes. Jack expressed concern that some residents may feel that a police escort is required for children to ride safely to school

7. From the Library

8. Announcements

- Jack distributed flyer on rides including Bike to New Britain Sat Oct 14
- Jon mentioned bike box on Church St in Hartford ... wondering if this can be a model for WH.

9. 11/13/2023 PBC meeting - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak (ecosys88@gmail.com)

10. Adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Motion by Jill then Paul 2nd.

Appendix:

The commission identified the following local and state roads that they feel should be given priority for inclusion on a revised Bicycle Facility Map. The commission requests that the consultant design these facilities with the highest level of feasible protection. (pink = priority and yellow next priority) put on physical map and recorded here:

Pink

Farmington Ave in total, plus Route 4

Trout Brook Drive in total

New Britain Ave in total

Main St N and S

Boulevard in total

Albany Avenue and Rt 44

Sedgewick Road and Park Road corridor in total

Asylum Avenue from Prospect Avenue to Fox Chase

Fern Street from Mountain Road to Prospect Avenue

Quaker Lane from Asylum Avenue to New Britain Ave

Newington Rd from New Britain Avenue to southern town line

New Park Avenue from New Britain Avenue to Prospect Street

Ridgewood Rd in total

Mountain Road in total from Still Road to Sedgewick Road

Oakwood Avenue from Flatbush to Park Road

Yellow

Hunter Lane

Mohawk from West Wood to the North Main Street

Whitman Avenue from N Main to Braeburn

Still Road in total

Flagg Road in total