



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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**WEBINAR ID 965 5022 8742**

**PASSWORD trail**

**CALL IN 1-203 715 8592**

**Minutes:** The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Special Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, via Zoom. The following topics were discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Schaefer, Mr. Horowitz, Mr. Anton, Ms. Sharma, Mr. Morrison

Commissioners Excused: Ms. Becker, Mr. Mallory

Others in Attendance: Assistant Town Planner Mr. Davis, Guest Mr. Kirkoff, Commission Clerk Ms. Tobin

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

At Mr. Schaefer's request, Commissioners each described how they and their families are dealing with the Covid-19 quarantine.

**2. Review Minutes of January 7, 2020 adding Mr. Horowitz to Commissioners in**  
The January 7<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved at the March meeting of the Farmington Canal Commission.

Review Minutes of May 5, 2020

**Mr. Morrison made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Reger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Guest Kyle Kirkoff addressed the Commission. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 610, and has to do a Life project before he can before he does an Eagle project. He was told that the kiosk on the trail at Todd Street has some damage. The plexiglass needs replacing and he would like to do that if he can remove what is there without damage to the kiosk. The kiosk also needs refinishing, and tree branches are hanging over it and need to be trimmed back. Mr. Anton agreed that the plexiglass is no longer clear. Mr. Horowitz said he has the key to the plexiglass doors and can make it available to Mr. Kirkoff. Mr. Schaefer thanked Mr. Kirkoff on behalf of the Commission and said we appreciate his willingness to do something to improve the trail. Mr. Anton's son and Mr. Schaefer's son have both done projects on the trail. Mr. Horowitz can supply a current Farmington Canal Rails to Trails map to place in the kiosk. Mr. Kirkoff can call Mr. Horowitz or Mr. Davis if he has any questions. Mr. Schaefer wished him luck with his project.

### 3. Report from Matt Davis

Mr. Davis said he hasn't been doing the census counts, but is told that trail use is up 160% this year over past years. He also mentioned the use at Sleeping Giant, and said once the parking lot is full they don't allow additional people to enter. He mentioned that Jon Torgeson has retired. Mr. Schaefer said he has been wonderful to us and knew the trail inside out. When we asked him to do something, sometimes we found it was already done. Mr. Paecht will be taking over responsibility for the trail. Mr. Davis will get his email for the Commissioners. Mr. Anton mentioned he had just sent Mr. Torgeson an email.

Mr. Davis asked Public Works Director Craig Cesare about repairs to the trail this year. His response was that they are way behind and there are budget problems, so there will probably be nothing major done this year. If people are aware of dangerous areas, please let him know. Mr. Horowitz said he hasn't seen bad spots, but the tree canopy needs work.

Mr. Anton mentioned that he and Ms. Sharma are still working on the sign project. They met with the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association, and they asked them to bring something to their September meeting. Mr. Anton said his son can do graphics, which will save some money. They need access to the Historical Society room. Mr. Horowitz recommended they look at the existing signs. He also mentioned a quasi museum room at the Lock Keeper's House, and he can give them access. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that the content of the original signs were on the original architectural plans for the trail, and wonders if they are still in the Planning Office. If so, maybe Mr. Davis can take photos with his phone. Mr. Horowitz mentioned that the content of the sign can be brief with a QR code to take people to more information. The New Haven Historical Society also has information. Cheshire has some new signs according to Mr. Horowitz. Ms. Sharma said they want to highlight Hamden points of interest such as Sleeping Giant. Mr. Schaefer mentioned the quarry that used to be on Sleeping Giant that was eventually shut down. They agreed to donate some granite slabs which are now benches on the trail.

Mr. Horowitz wondered if Public Works would be amenable to installing a porta-potty at the Sherman Avenue parking lot. He said that parking lot is usually almost full. Mr. Horowitz mentioned that the toilets are open in Cheshire and Southington, but the water fountains are still closed.

There was discussion on the spur trail behind the Hamden Middle School. Heading to the right and to the left near Meadowbrook, there are gates that block people from going further and parts are not wheelchair accessible. Mr. Tobin said that her recollection is that the spur trail was to give access from the trail to Town Center Park and the Library, and that Julie Smith of the Mayor's Office worked on that project. Mr. Horowitz will contact Ms. Smith.

### 4. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street)

No comments.

### 5. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive)

No comments

### 6. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway)

There was mention of shopping cards piling up at the Sanford Street crossing on the grass near the trail. Mr. Reger noticed several shopping cards in that area and they were all from Walmart.

Mr. Schaefer said anyone who notices shopping carts could send a photo (to Mr. Davis) or call and report the location to the store. Ms. Tobin mentioned that if you call the stores they will pick them up.

**7. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line)**

No comments.

**8. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**9. New Business**

There was no new business.

**10. Adjournment**

**There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Schaefer asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sharma so moved. Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_