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Mayor

TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FARMINGTON CANAL COMMISSION

Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Johanna Becker, Steve Humes, Peter Haller, Bill Horowitz, Jennifer Cutrali, Barbara Gigliotti, Mike Johnson

Others in Attendance: Norm Thetford, Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association, Dan Kops, Assistant Town Planner, Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

Guests: Elisa Lupi, Hamden Middle School Teacher with students Alex and Maggie

1. Review Minutes of April 6, 2010

Ms. Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Haller welcomed guests from Hamden Middle School, Alex and Maggie with teacher Mrs. Lupi – to discuss their trail. Mr. Haller said the trail is difficult to find. Some sort of directional signs would help. Mrs. Lupi was to get in touch with Frank Cooper to remove a section of the fence at the end of the trail – or remove top rail so people can step over the fence. Mrs. Lupi will talk to Mr. Cooper about the fence. Mr. Haller found it to be charming and rustic and is a great link to the Middle School. Mrs. Lupi said they took the whole team out on April 23rd and it was a good exercise. They found gravel placed at one point and Mrs. Lupi was not sure why. Mr. Horowitz said the woods will try to reclaim the cleared area if no one does any maintenance or places some type of mulch.

Ms. Becker asked if there is any plan for litter patrol on the trail. Mrs. Lupi said she will be using the trail with her students and will take on that responsibility. Mr. Humes wondered if there was any possibility of putting down something to give the trail definition. The mulch offered by Public Works was mentioned as well as a simple sign. Mr. Thetford offered that there is a sign at the top that points to Dixwell Avenue and Town Hall; another strip could be added to the sign.

Mrs. Lupi said the team did an electronic survey over a three week period that sent to all social study teachers on the school access program. They did the same survey to all staff members. 156 students took the survey, 17% of the population, and 19 out of 84 teachers. A copy of the survey is attached.

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

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

Ms. Gigliotti said work is ongoing at the intersection of West Woods Road and Whitney Avenue, and the telephone poles have been moved back from Whitney Avenue. One is smack in the middle of the sidewalk near People's Bank, just north of the driveway. Mr. Thetford mentioned that Mayor Jackson spoke at a Westwoods Civic Association meeting Monday evening, and this subject came up.

Mr. Haller suggested we pull out our plans for that intersection at our next meeting to recall the area of the land swap, etc. Mr. Humes said Mr. Hoyt has put up a mesh type fence to prevent people from accessing the trail from the parking lot behind People's Bank. Ms. Gigliotti researched and found that the town owns from the curb back 9' into the pavement on the side of the parking lot toward the trail. Perhaps there should be a chat with Mr. Hoyt. Ms. Becker brought up the parking at the new building near the old railroad station. A deal was made with the Town back in the 90's giving the owner rights to some of the spaces in return for giving the Town access into its property, according to Mr. Kops.

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

Mr. Humes mentioned maintenance and graffiti issues on the signs behind Breugers, and the pavement has buckled in some areas. There is also some large painting on the slope that goes down by LA Fitness, and graffiti on the Dixwell Avenue Bridge. Ms. Becker mentioned a large rope near the overpass at Sherman. Hamden Hills Drive to Breugers has always been targeted for graffiti.

Skiff Street Underpass News – Mr. Kops said the project is moving forward. A permanent easement is being negotiated with the Stop & Shop property owners, and there is some discussion on the impact of the impervious surface on Stop & Shop's ability to expand. A temporary easement is being negotiated with the owners of 100 Skiff Street for the storage of equipment during construction. Applications have been filed with Inland Wetlands which will be heard May 5th and Planning & Zoning which will be heard next Tuesday. Mr. Kops met with RWA and ATT. RWA would like to replace their pipe, which has to be shored up during construction, since it is old. We are hoping for early fall construction. Our plans are in semifinal review at the state level. Two of the reviewing departments provided feedback. The utilities section person has not reviewed the plans to date. Mr. Kops said we will have the final numbers when the final design is approved.

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

Ms. Cutrali said she feels litter is going to be an ongoing issue behind the Chimney Square, Save A Lot area. Mr. Kops said Adam is very diligent about responding to the complaints. He has been dealing with the property owners along the trail for the last couple of years and he gets them to clean up, but then it starts to flow again. Mr. Haller hopes we can gather momentum on the adopt-a-section idea. Ms. Cutrali feels the businesses should be held accountable.

Mr. Haller said we have a plastic bag problem. There was further discussion on litter.

Mr. Haller said the new wooden fence we put up in Phase 3 has been painted with a shade of gray that is not the same as what was on there. Ms. Gigliotti spoke to Frank Cooper about that, and he was aware and was upset. We should do better. Ms. Becker asked if there has been any additional criminal activity. Mr. Kops had not heard of any. Mr. Horowitz said one of his colleagues said there have been times when he was uncomfortable commuting to New Haven. Ms. Cutrali said someone she knows was threatened in the Newhall area. Many people are using the trail to commute to New Haven.

6. Old Business

Update on requests for memorial benches

Mr. Cooper provided the Commission with an update on bench and other donations to the trail. There was one new request for a bench by Karen Keatley. Mr. Cooper sent Ms. Keatley information on the benches.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept a bench from Karen Keatley to be installed in a location recommended by the Parks & Recreation Department as suggested by the Farmington Canal Commission. Mr. Haller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

7. New Business

Ms. Gigliotti has a new email address. bgigliotti@yahoo.com.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission