



Scott D. Jackson  
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, January 5, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center.**

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Gigliotti, Ms. Becker, Mr. Blandon, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Haller, Mr. Horowitz, Mr. Schaefer

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Humes

Others in Attendance: Anthony Cuomo  
Assistant Town Planner Dan Kops  
Commission Clerk Tobin

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Review Minutes of Thursday, November 5, 2009  
**Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2009. Mr. Haller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Review Informal Notes of December 14, 2009  
Informal notes, no vote necessary.

2. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street)  
No updates
3. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive)  
Road construction is continuing at the Westwoods Road intersection.
4. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway)

There will be discussion on the progress of the Skiff Street underpass later in the meeting.

5. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line)  
No Update
  
6. Old Business  
Update on requests for memorial benches  
Mr. Cooper of Parks & Recreation provided information on the status of bench installations. Ms. Gigliotti will get in touch with Mr. Cooper regarding possible bench locations.

#### 2010 Meeting Schedule

**Mr. Haller made a motion to approve the 2010 meeting schedule as submitted. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

#### Tunnel

The Engineering Department did a survey of the area where the tunnel will be located, so with that and the drawing that Milone & MacBroom has done, Mr. Schaefer can go to the owners of the Stop & Shop property and ask them to donate the small section to connect the trail to where the tunnel will be located. Tom Balskus has reviewed this. The easement is only the width of the paved path, 14'. We have to make sure the trail that goes from the trail down to Connolly parkway is shown on the map. This property is owned by a single entity. The Right of Way used to go through the shopping center, but the owner agreed to relocate the trail and donate the land (1 mile) 14' wide. The paving is 12' in this section. There is no landscaping long this section.

The plans have to be approved by DOT. DOT has done a preliminary review and Tom Balskus has done the work to address DOT's comments, but the decision on road closure has to be made by the Mayor, who has expressed his preference not to close the road; however, he wants to keep his options open. He wants us to design with the road open, but do a bid alternate to do it with the road closed. DOT might not let us do it without closing the road due to turning radius issues. DOT is busy right now working with applications for projects using stimulus funds, but Tom Balskus will be trying to contact them. Ms. Gigliotti asked if there is any way we can pressure the Mayor to close the road for a week. Mr. Kops said Mayor Jackson has spent quite a bit of time thinking about this and talking to the Police Chief, etc., and he explained his decision to Mr. Schaefer. Closing the road would cost about \$250,000 less than doing the work with the road open and the work would be completed in one week. There were some traffic studies done on what would be the best time to close Skiff Street if necessary, and August was determined to be the best month.

Mr. Schaefer will work on the easement, legal work, etc. There was discussion on what would happen if the State decided to redo the Parkway Bridge over Skiff Street.

Mr. Haller mentioned the inside of the tunnel and is concerned about graffiti. He wondered if there is some type of coating that could be applied to the inside of the tunnel in order to make it easier to clean graffiti off.

Mr. Cuomo complimented the Board for completing this wonderful project, which he described as a great asset for the Town. Mr. Cuomo mentioned the pathway that is going through his property, which he would like to name Cuomo Way or Cuomo Walk, like the parcel at Hamden Hall. He has Mr. D'Atri's permission to install a sign called Cuomo Way or Cuomo Path. Mr. Cuomo made this request of Mr. Schaefer a few months ago. There was some concern about setting a precedent. The Commission would like to put something permanent in that area acknowledging Mr. Cuomo's donation, but probably not a street sign. Ms. Becker mentioned the signs in Central Park noting those who have made donations and also signs of the type along the trail.

Legislative Council Representative Kath Schomaker mentioned the easement with Mutual Housing and wondered who is going to take responsibility for the traffic flow in that area. She also said that at the January 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, it was reported that the Police Department has received funds from the annual antique car show at Quinnipiac and the Cesare memorial golf event to purchase an ATV for the purpose of patrolling the trail. Chief Wydra said they might have to get special permission from this Commission and Parks & Recreation to allow them to drive the ATV on the trail. The other question is the budget for trail maintenance. Ms. Schomaker is a bike rider and feels the trail is a huge opportunity for the Town.

Mr. Schaefer said the Town had a number of meetings with Dale Kroop & MHA, and there was some concern. There is a one way exit across the trail from the property, and in exchange the developer is building a parking lot across the street that trail users can use. There is a stop sign and bollards on the plan. Mr. Kops said there should be signs telling cars to yield to trail users, and another warning for the trail users to watch for cars crossing the trail.

There are two easements, one temporary during construction, and the other permanent, exit only. The drawings are available in P&Z. Mr. Schaefer Mr. Kops' point on signage is good. There is also a do not enter sign on the plans. Different solutions were discussed, including speed bumps, a gate, flashing lights with a sensor, etc.

A Police Department ATV is a real concern. Could there be any compromise such as a small electric car? Mr. Haller feels an ATV might send a signal that ATVs are allowed on the greenway. Ms. Schomaker feels there needs to be a conversation between the Commission and the Police Chief. Mr. Schaefer mentioned a sign saying state law requires autos to stop for pedestrians in the cross walk. Mr. Horowitz mentioned that Captain Lujick felt their biggest concern is manpower. They have bikes and motorcycles. He doesn't see how having additional equipment solves that problem. Mr. Haller mentioned a segue. Ms. Becker suggested we ask Cheshire if they are using motorized vehicles.

Mr. Kops mentioned the easement for monitoring wells, which were approved by the Legislative Council at grade, as Ms. Gigliotti suggested.

Mr. Haller feels we need to advocate for more funds for trail maintenance, both immediate and long term. Ms. Gigliotti put together a list of maintenance items and is going to get together with Parks & Recreation to discuss what we might need and to get their input. She hopes to have a number by the next meeting. Stone dust should be one item, ¼ of the trail per year, and she will ask whether they have the machine that puts it down. Phase I is 15 years old, and it could last

another 10-15 years. There are some root bumps, including knot weed on the new phase. Canopy and shrub trimming need to be done every year. Mr. Haller suggested the Commission should build a list of the assets on the trail and estimate maintenance costs. We have had to replace the bridge decks on two bridges. The Sanford Street Bridge is rusting. Mr. Haller will work with Ms. Gigliotti on this project.

7. Adjournment

**Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission