



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor

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FARMINGTON CANAL COMMISSION

Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Bill Horowitz, Jennifer Cutrali, Malachi Blandon, Peter Haller, David Schaefer, Barbara Gigliotti, Johanna Becker
Commissioners Absent: Steve Humes, Michael Johnson
Others in Attendance: Bill Davies, FCRTTA
Tom Balskus, Milone & MacBroom
Dan Kops, Assistant Town Planner
Jerry Raccio, Property Owner
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

1. Review Minutes of March 10, 2010

Clarification to March 10th Minutes – Page 2, change, end of first paragraph, change “group” to Mrs. Lupi and the Middle School students

Ms. Cutrali made a motion to approve the minutes of March 10th as amended. Mr. Haller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Schaefer introduced Tom Balskus of Milone and MacBroom, designer of the Farmington Canal Trail, Phases 2A and B and 3. Since the last meeting, Mr. Schaefer, Mr. Kops and Mr. Balskus met with DOT. The supervisor we have been working with is changing. Bob Riscassi is moving to South Carolina. His replacement was at the meeting with his boss, and the meeting went very well. There is less money than originally thought - \$400,000 of in-kind services which we counted and they do not. DOT also has not included the contingency dollars yet. The DOT does not want to include those funds until the expenses are audited, but they assured us they will get it done.

DOT supported our moving forward quickly while the bid market is good. One of the questions was whether or not to close Skiff Street during construction. The cost of doing the project with the road open was exorbitant, so Mayor Jackson has agreed to drop that option and close the road.

Mr. Schaefer said as soon as we are ready we will go out to bid, then see how much money we have and how to we are going to proceed. There is a lot to do. The Town Attorney and outside counsel have reviewed the easement with the Stop & Shop Property Owner. We have approval of the construction easement by the owners of 100 Skiff Street. Mr. Kops said the application to Inland Wetlands arrived today and will be reviewed tomorrow night. Mr. Kops explained the Inland Wetlands process and said there would be a short presentation Wednesday evening, and a site inspection will be scheduled. The application will continue at the May Inland Wetlands meeting. The Special Permit will be heard by Planning & Zoning after Inland Wetlands acts.

Mr. Balskus said the DOT review takes approximately four weeks. The Town will be ready to act once comments come back from DOT. Mr. Haller asked if we need to do an §8-24 Review. Mr. Kops replied yes, and we will have to go to the Legislative Council with the easements and expenditures. This will be taken care of under one resolution. We are hoping to go out to bid in June or July, and might be able to start construction before winter.

Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting and begin the Public Hearing. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Schaefer called the Regular meeting back to order at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Gigliotti had a list of recommended locations. She said we have 28 locations for benches and presented a map showing current bench locations and potential locations for new benches.

2. Old Business

Mr. Blandon mentioned the area behind the Sports Bar in Mt. Carmel, where some of the fence poles are down. That was reported last month to Parks & Recreation

3. New Business

There was discussion on the possibility of water being diverted onto the trail. Ms. Gigliotti mentioned that a portion of the Cheshire Trail was under water due to the recent heavy rains.

Mr. Haller brought up the changes Mayor Jackson has proposed to the management of the parks. He said there will be layoffs, a decrease in the total number of people, but several people from the Parks Recreation will be moving to Public Works, which will be taking care of the parks.

Ms. Gigliotti met with Frank Cooper, who will be laid off if the Mayor's proposed budget is approved. Mr. Schaefer noted that Mr. Cooper has been very supportive of the trail and even recommended the Farmington Canal Commission for an award we received from the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association. Ms. Gigliotti said Parks & Recreation will be painting the mile markers before the new fiscal year, and they have already cut back the canopy.

Ms. Gigliotti said there is no money budgeted for improvements to the trail. Mr. Haller was concerned about the asphalt breaking down at the edges of the trail and said if that is let go, we will have a much bigger expense in the future.

Hamden Hall will clean a portion of the trail in honor of Earth Day. A suggestion was made that the cleanup be from Putnam Avenue south.

Johanna Becker reported trash along access road behind the Middle School.

Mr. Cooper is looking at best practices for an adopt-a-mile program for the trail. Ms. Gigliotti said Mr. Cooper suggested the adoptions should be for sections shorter than a mile, for more frequent cleanup.

Mr. Kops said that if trash is seen on private property along the trail, it should be reported to Adam Zonas, the Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer in Planning and Zoning, at 287-7076.

4. Adjournment

Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Haller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission