



Scott D. Jackson  
Mayor

# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Hamden Government Center  
2750 Dixwell Ave  
Hamden, CT 06518  
Tel: (203) 287-7100  
Fax: (203) 287-7101

## FARMINGTON CANAL COMMISSION

**Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission**, Town of Hamden held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Office Conference Room, Hamden Government Center The following issues will be discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Malachi Blandon, Kathy Larson, Richard Weiner, Barbara Gigliotti, Bill Horowitz, Johanna Becker, David Schaefer,

Commissioners Absent: Mike Johnson, Mike Dunlap

Others in Attendance: Cliff Pollack, Jean, Assistant Town Planner Dan Kops, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Review Minutes of April 3, 2012

**Mr. Weiner made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Mr. Kops reported that the fencing near the Mutual Housing development that was discussed previously is going to be removed. Public Works had forgotten about it. Several Commissioners noticed it was still there on the weekend. Mr. Kops said if you pull right up to the trail and stop, you can see around the dumpster, but not the fence. Mr. Schaefer suggested the dumpster be moved to the right of the driveway where there is room. Mr. Schaefer explained that we worked with the developer on this project which allows cars to cross the trail, and 25-30' of fence will be removed to improve visibility.

Mr. Kops spoke to the Mayor about doing fund raising through a non profit – The Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association, and he is on board with that.

Mr. Schaefer rode the trail Monday night and Tuesday morning and said it looked pretty good, but if the stone dust isn't restored, we will lose the soft trail. He recalls the cost would be \$15,000 to \$20,000. The Town's budget is really tight. At a meeting, The Farmington Canal

Rails to Trails Association said they would be happy to assist in this by having a fund raising campaign and once they raised the funds they would donate the funds to the Town for use on the trail. The donation would then have to be accepted by the Legislative Council. Mr. Schaefer will work with them to get that done and he has some leads. Spreading the stone dust would have to be done by Town employees, and the original contractor on the trail, Schultz, has a device that he made to spread the stone dust. Mr. Schaefer spoke to Mr. Schultz, and he will talk to Public Works about their borrowing that piece of equipment.

Mr. Schaefer also noticed fence repairs and graffiti that are not being attended to. Mr. Weiner noticed several maintenance issues south of Connolly Parkway. He pointed out a letter that was in the Register about the poor condition of the trail. There was further discussion regarding maintenance issues along the trail.

Mr. Schaefer said he has heard from Hamden High School about students who would like to adopt a mile. He feels we should try it with the High School group and see how it works. Public Works has been very cooperative in supplying garbage bags, gloves, etc. Mr. Kops mentioned last year's cleanup when Pepsi came out and helped. We will give the High School a mile, probably starting at Skiff Street and going down past Connolly Parkway for one mile, probably at Mather. Getting it cleaned is our major goal. Mr. Bandon will be willing to go out with the kids. We can do a press release for recognition. If it works well next year we can do more.

Ms. Gigliotti noticed that north of Sherman Avenue going up to West Woods Road, you can wiggle the fence support posts. There have been sections that were down. Some of the posts will need replacing going forward.

Mr. Kops said the state has put in landscaping at West Woods Road. Ms. Becker mentioned there are no lines on the road for pedestrians to cross. There was further discussion on the West Woods Road intersection.

Mr. Schaefer would like to have a meeting with Public Works. Ms. Gigliotti and Mr. Kops will also attend.

We had a visitor at our meeting, Jean, who said she was at the meeting because of her interest in the trail.

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

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

Mr. Bandon mentioned that the wooden fence behind the bar might need some metal poles at the parking lot. Ms. Gigliotti suggested that the guard rail that was removed from the lower end could be used to replace the fence behind the bar. Ms. Becker said she thinks we should speak to the owners of the bar about the trash from the bar near the trail. Mr. Weiner asked about trash cans sporadically along the trail. Mr. Schaefer explained that the environmentalists feel you should bring out what you bring in and explained the Commission's thoughts about trash cans. There was discussion about historical markers along the trail and other signage.

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

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

6. Old Business

7. New Business

At last month's meeting, Commissioners expressed interest in wearing vests identifying them as members of the Farmington Canal Commission while using the trail, so that people could approach them with questions, ideas, etc. Ms. Larson brought her CERT Team vest as an example. The Commission will research this further as to cost.

8. Adjournment

**Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

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