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FARMINGTON CANAL COMMISSION

Informal Notes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden held an informal session on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. A quorum was not available. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Bill Horowitz, Barbara Gigliotti, Kathy Larson, Malachi Blandon

Commissioners Excused: David Schaefer, Richard Weiner, Michael Dunlap

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

There was discussion on the tunnel under Skiff Street, which is still leaking at the northernmost seam. There is nothing leaking at the southern end or in the middle. Mr. Horowitz mentioned a chemical that can be injected to create a water barrier. It actually creates a membrane that would seal the leak.

Mr. Kops asked Mr. Horowitz if there is money coming in to Rails to Trails for the Farmington Canal Commission for the repair of the soft trail. Mr. Horowitz replied not to date. Mr. Kops reported that there are some funds in the budget for trail maintenance. We still need the money for materials, which is what the donations were going to be used for. The Public Works & Parks Department will do the work. It is estimated that the cost to replace the crushed stone along the trail would be \$10,000.

Mr. Horowitz mentioned that there seems to be more branches encroaching on the trail. Canopy trimming is usually done after the leaves fall.

Scout Ben Abbot has been convinced that it would be better to repaint the mile markers than to install the signs he had proposed. Ms. Gigliotti said Public Works was not excited about the

signs. Mr. Kops said repainting the mile markers will not require permission from the Legislative Council. Ms. Gigliotti and Mr. Kops have both been corresponding with Mr. Abbott and each other about the project. Ms. Gigliotti signed off on Mr. Abbott's paperwork, and Mr. Kops wrote him a letter giving him permission to do the project. He will use the same stencils Public Works used. Malachi mentioned that the sign behind People's Bank has been reinstalled.

Mr. Horowitz asked about the use of electronically assisted bicycles on the trail. Mr. Kops mentioned an electronically assisted bicycle would allow him to ride the hills to get from his home to the trail. Mr. Schaefer had previously told Mr. Kops that they would not be allowed. Mr. Horowitz said we still do not have speed limit signs. Ms. Larson said Cheshire has posted 10 mph. Some Commissioners feel that the trail users that go really fast are the bikers that know what they are doing and announce they are coming. The concern is those that go too fast and don't announce their presence. Most bicyclers and skate boarders don't have speedometers. Mr. Horowitz feels posting some common courtesy items would be helpful, such as stay to the right, keep moving or step off of the trail, announce your presence (on your left). Ms. Gigliotti will look at the bulletin board at Sherman Avenue. We could consider putting signs at parking lots and perhaps road crossings. Mr. Kops asked if the commissioners felt an electrically assisted bikes could be allowed, as long as the motor wasn't being used on the trail. Mr. Horowitz mentioned there are many more bike options today.

Mr. Horowitz said the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association would like to experiment with putting up informative signage at certain areas along the trail, such as The Lock Keeper's House, The Powder Farm location, etc., even something as simple as laminated paper. He mentioned a QR code, something like a bar code, that will take you to the town's web site, that people could read with their smart phones. He would also have something on site for people to read for those without smart phone capability. Mr. Horowitz also mentioned that he could have a link to the Rails to Trails website to access their map.

Mr. Blandon mentioned a wooden structure near Tonino's that blocks the view. He feels it should be moved. Mr. Blandon also mentioned that he worked with a cleanup group from Hamden High School last Tuesday, and they cleaned up 15 bags of trash between CVS and Skiff Street. He will work with them at their next cleanup.

Ms. Gigliotti spoke with Agnes Orlowski of the Clean & Green Commission about her meeting with Home Depot. Apparently their cleaning crew was coming in at 2 or 3:00 a.m. And blowing the trash and litter from their lot onto the trail, not knowing the trail was there. That practice has been discontinued.

1. Call to Order
2. Review Minutes of September 4, 2012
3. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street)
4. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive)
5. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway)
6. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line)

7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission