



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 at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4 2013 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center The following issues were discussed:

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

Commissioners Absent: Michael Dunlap, Michael Johnson

Others in Attendance: Guest Andy Marchant Shapiro, Assistant Town Planner Dan Kops, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He reminded commissioners that our next meeting is the annual picnic meeting at Brooksvale Park on Wednesday, July 17th at 6:30 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of April 2, 2013

Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2013 meeting. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Report from Mr. Kops

Mr. Kops attended a meeting a week or two ago with the chair of the Parks Commission about trying to come up with general rules for the Hamden park system. He spoke to Mr. Schaefer earlier today, who felt the commission should start working on a set of rules or guidelines that it thinks are appropriate for the trail. Mr. Schaefer said we did this 20 years ago and brought the rules to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Some of the rules are posted at the Todd Street parking lot and also some of them are in the brochure. Rules are important, such as the dispute about horses, hours of use, and speed. Mr. Marchant Shapiro doesn't think the speed limit is posted in Hamden, but he did see 10 mph posted in Cheshire. Pets have to be on leashes, but that is not always followed. Mr. Horowitz thinks bikers and rollerbladers should ride single file. Mr.

Marchant Shapiro feels 10 mph is slow, he feels 14-15 mph would be better. Ms. Larson said people have to be considerate of other people on the trail. We need a set of rules and best practices. Ms. Becker said trail users should announce themselves while passing.

According to Mr. Marchant Shapiro, state law requires bikes to have lights and a bell when using public roads. He also mentioned dog walkers should not use extendable leashes. Ms. Gigliotti said leashes should be no longer than 6'. Mr. Schaefer will find and circulate the rules and we can discuss them at our next meeting. Mr. Horowitz said the rules need to be enforced. Mr. Kops said the best way of getting something to the population is by distributing it to school children. Mr. Weiner asked the the Commission has a web site. Mr. Kops said he can put something up on the Town's web site. Newspaper articles were also suggested. Mr. Horowitz said the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association has a web site.

Mr. Schaefer said we have the posts with information on them, but the print is small, and you can't read some of the information through the plexiglass.

Mr. Larson brought up a vest or tee shirt commissioners could wear while using the trail that would identify them as commissioners. Commissioners could then hand out information flyers, answer questions, etc. This was discussed previously, and we will discuss it again at our next meeting.

There was discussion regarding permission given to UNH engineering students to have a trial run of their energy efficient car on the trail. The car is estimated to go 600 miles on a gallon of gas. Students will take part in a nationwide competition.

Mr. Schaefer said on Saturday he rode the trail from Connolly Parkway South and on Sunday he rode from Connolly Parkway north, making notations along the way. He felt the northern part needs very little attention. More attention is needed from Connolly Parkway to the New Haven border. There are broken fences, a lot of graffiti, litter behind Home Depot and near Putnam Avenue, although not a huge amount of litter. Mr. Schaefer wondered if he should have the HHS students take pictures of the graffiti and see if we can identify any of the tags.

There was discussion on what volunteers are allowed to do without getting the unions aggravated. The broken guard rails near Chimney Square and Sherman Avenue were discussed. Mr. Schaefer said we need to maintain the fencing because we can't afford to replace it all. Mr. Schaefer asked Mr. Kops if Public Works is aware that we purchased a graffiti removal machine. We can paint over the graffiti on wooden surfaces, but we don't want to paint rocks and other natural surfaces. Commissioners and other volunteers have painted over graffiti in the past with a Pepsi group. Mr. Schaefer will try a couple of sections.

Mr. Kops mentioned a complaint about Sergio's placing tables and chairs on trail property. Sergio's has agreed to move the tables back.

We have discussed charitable organizations using the trail. The last organization to use the trail wrote on it with brightly colored chalk. There was discussion on whether groups should remove their markings at the end of their event. Chalk is okay because rain will remove it. Spray paint cannot be used. There was discussion on the mile markers along the trail needing repainting.

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

Mr. Schaefer mentioned that the replacement of the Brooksvale Avenue Bridge is finished, and it is a pretty bridge.

There was discussion on the Stop For Pedestrians signs in the crosswalks. State law requires vehicles to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

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

Mr. Blandon mentioned that Mrs. Stubbs is selling her house. We reserved a spot for Mr. Stubbs memorial bench, but we need to wait until the Town takes over the intersection from the State. There was discussion on raising the funds to purchase the bench.

Mr. Blandon that someone from B&B Glass was digging a hole for a signpost in the rear of the building, which he thinks is trail property.

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

There was discussion on a spur from Town Center Park to the trail.

Mr Schaefer mentioned that New haven does not have a Trail Commission. City employees have been working on the plan for their trail. Several of them have or are planning to retire soon. Mr. Horowitz said they have their plan plus an alternative.

Mr. Marchant Shapiro mentioned mentioned some difficulty getting on to the trail from the street because there are no curb cuts. He said you have to use someone's driveway.

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

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Mr. Blandon will keep his eye on the sign post and stay in contact with Mrs. Stubbs regarding the bench.

Mr. Schaefer will contact commissioners regarding painting over graffiti on June 15th.

Mr. Horowitz will continue to keep in contact with Public Works.

There was discussion on the condition of some of the bollards. Some are missing and some are starting to rust. The bollards must be maintained because they are very expensive to replace.

Mr. Schaefer said the tunnel is great. Mr. Kops said it is still leaking, but less. The contractor is still working on a solution to this problem. Mr. Kops said the state has agreed to allow us to bill for reimbursement for the painting of the tunnel, but not for repair of the leak.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Horowitz 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