



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 at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: David Schaefer, Mike Johnson, Bill Horowitz, Richard Weiner, Barbara Gigliotti, Kathy Larson

Commissioners Excused: Johanna Becker, Malachi Blandon, Michael Dunlap

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

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of January 3, 2013

**Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2013. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Mr. Horowitz said it has been his position to keep the plows/trucks off the trail. In the last two years, we have had an exceptional amount of snow. He feels we should have a compromise, take most of the snow off so it will melt quickly, but keep a few inches so the plows won't touch the trail directly.

Mr. Schaefer understands that contingent upon the manpower, they have been plowing the southern portion and leaving the northern portion unplowed. Has anyone identified damage from the plowing? No one responded. Mr. Schaefer asked if Mr. Horowitz felt it is best to do the same thing to the whole trail. We haven't passed detailed resolutions in the past, but we want to encourage Public Works to do what we would like to see done. He asked Mr. Horowitz if he

would be willing to meet with PW and ask them to express their feelings and provide input and let them know what we would like to happen. He said they are very willing to meet, and we want their feedback, what they are doing and why. Mr. Horowitz said he doesn't know what kind of use we get from skiers. If the snow is two or three feet deep it would be hard to ski. Ms. Gigliotti said there were people snowshoeing on it. Mr. Horowitz said there is commuter use of the trail. There was discussion on having the large trucks with the v plows on the trail. Ms. Gigliotti feels those trucks should not be on the trail, and the pickups with plows on the front would not have been able to get through the 3' of snow. Mr. Schaefer feels bicyclers would probably prefer to see the trail plowed. Mr. Schaefer asked Mr. Horowitz to talk to Public Works, find out what they have been doing, what kind of equipment they are using, what their problems have been etc.

There was discussion on canopy trimming. Ms. Gigliotti reported that north of Todd street there are trees down, blocking the side trail. Ms. Larson reported also hangers over the trail behind the former Dietters and she will email that information to Mr. Kops to report to PW because they are a safety issue.

Ms. Gigliotti said right now there are a lot of fencing issues. She has been using the trail from Brooksvale to Sherman. There was a lot of plow damage behind the bar/pool place. We will need an ongoing long term plan for repairs. North of Todd Street the pavement edges are breaking off. Mr. Schaefer said he doesn't want to change the esthetics of the trail (change the style of the fencing). He thinks any changes we would consider should be reviewed for input by the designers of the trail. The northern portion of the trail is 20 years old. He suspects the pavement can last 50 years except for roots, upheavals, etc. Ms. Gigliotti said we had talked about the section north of Sherman where the fence was damaged and replacing that with the fence that was removed from the artist housing area. Ms. Gigliotti said some of the rails were broken by plows, but the uprights are rotting at the ground level. Ms. Kops explained the capital budget and the operating budget and which funds would be used depending on the the extent of the problem. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that in the New Haven Register's 101 Things to Do in CT, Hamden's trail was listed.

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

Mr. Kops reported that to the best of his knowledge, the Town has not taken over the Westwoods Road intersection to date. Ms. Gigliotti mentioned that north of Todd Street at the Richards' driveway, the pea stone gravel is across the trail and needs to be swept off.

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

Regarding the drainage issue at Sherman Avenue, we are still hoping to install new drainage on the western side of the trail. Mr. Horowitz reported that the drainage system on the east side of Sherman Avenue is totally blocked with leaves.

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

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

Mr. Kops reported graffiti on the north side of the retaining wall at Putnam Avenue. Mr. Horowitz expressed some concerns about the fence near Skiff Street Stop & Shop where the trail curves. Mr. Kops said Milone & MacBroom is still working on the chronic leaking at the two ends of the tunnel. Mr. Kops mentioned that the tunnel was built to State standards.

7. Old Old Business

Mr. Kops reported that the Town Center Park Commission is still trying to plan a connection from the park to the Farmington Canal Trail. There was discussion on the possible location of the connection.

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

**Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Gigliotti seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

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