



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, September 3, 2013 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: David Schaefer, Kathy Larson, Malachi Blandon, Mike Johnson, Richard Weiner, Johanna Becker

Absent: Barbara Gigliotti, Mike Dunlap, Bill Horowitz (excused)

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

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of July 17, 2013

Page 1, Commissioners in Attendance, change Larsen to Larson

**Ms. Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2013. Ms. Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

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

Mr. Weiner said he has ridden the trail a couple of times and noticed that the fencing in some areas is in bad shape. Some fencing has broken rails, and in some areas sections were down.

Mr. Schaefer asked commissioners to email Mr. Kops if they see a problem on the trail.

([dkops@hamden.com](mailto:dkops@hamden.com)). While Mr. Kops is out of town for the next two weeks, email should be sent to Public Works Director Craig Cesare at [ccesare@hamden.com](mailto:ccesare@hamden.com), with a copy to Mr. Kops.

Mr. Schaefer suggested we meet with Public Works prior to budget season to see if they can put some maintenance funds for the trail in the budget.

Mr. Bandon reported that Mrs. Stubbs has moved into an assisted living facility, so is no longer able to provide funds for a memorial bench for Campbell. Mr. Schaefer suggested the commissioners think of some former members that might be interested in making a donation for the bench. Some current members were interested in donating.

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

Mr. Bandon reported that a bollard is missing from the Todd Street crossing.

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

Mr. Bandon reported that Quinnipiac shuttle buses have been parking in the trail lot at Sherman Avenue. Mr. Kops will contact Quinnipiac upon his return from vacation.

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

Mr. Kops mentioned that Stop & Shop is moving out of the 1245 Dixwell Avenue location. He also reported that there is an application before Planning & Zoning for two buildings at the corner of Mather & Dixwell, one for a Family Dollar store and the other for an unknown use. There is some movement on 380 Mather Street. Mr. Schaefer reminded commissioners that one of the owners of that property had agreed to build a portion of the trail across his property, but then never developed his property. He did donate money for the trail, and the Town built that portion.

Mr. Marchant Shapiro asked about the mile markers. He also said he has noticed that orange paint has been sprayed where there have been frost heaves and roots coming through the pavement. Mr. Kops said he had spoken to PW and asked them to spray to warn people of danger. Mr. Marchant Shapiro commented that the pavement on the trail is in bad shape. Mr. Schaefer said portions of the trail are 20 years old. He said Public Works advises that there is no need to repave, but there is a need to repair areas where roots have come up. This is an issue we can address. Mr. Marchant Shapiro said there were three areas like that between Skiff Street and Connolly Parkway. Mr. Marchant Shapiro said Arts Housing has access to the trail, but visibility is poor in that area. Bikes can't see cars and cars can't see bikes. Mr. Schaefer said there is a bump so cars have to stop before crossing the trail. We allowed that trail crossing in exchange for trail users being allowed to park in their lot across the street. Mr. Schaefer will take a look to see if the dumpster has been moved and also if the section of the fence has been removed. Mr. Marchant Shapiro doesn't think the speed limit is posted along the trail. He suggested at some of the entrances have speed limits posted. Ms. Larson mentioned perhaps the speed limit could be painted on the trail. Commissioners felt that was a good idea. Mr. Schaefer remembers a speed limit being posted as you cross from Cheshire in to Hamden. Mr. Marchant Shapiro advised that someone ahead of him going under the Route 15 bridge suddenly stopped and shouted. It appears that dental floss had been strung across the trail at face level.

Mr. Schaefer said we were contacted by Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts Recreation and Culture, who gets requests to use the trail for certain events. She wants to meet with Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Kops in order to develop some procedures.

Mr. Marchant Shapiro suggested trail brochures be placed in bike shops. Mr. Kops will get the trail rules and regulations up on the town's web site. Ms. Larson asked about the commission

having a Facebook page. There was discussion on commissioner vests or tee shirts. Ms. Larson will bring her CERT vest to the next commission meeting.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

Report from Mr. Kops –

The term of the Farmington Canal Commission ended several years ago, but the Legislative Council has approved an amendment to the ordinance to continue the Commission going forward indefinitely.

There has been a request before the Legislative for the approval of monitoring wells 10' off the trail behind the Stop & Shop near Putnam Avenue. The covers are at grade. This is not the same property owner as the last time this came up.

Mr. Kops received news about three weeks ago that there were chunks of concrete falling off the underside of the Treadwell Street Bridge onto the trail. He spoke to Mayor Jackson and the Engineering Department, and they plan to fix the bridge. DOT ordered the Town to repair the bridge and in the meanwhile, netting will be put in place to prevent anyone from being injured.

Mr. Kops said you may have noticed that at West Woods Road there are a few parking spaces on the west side of the entrance to the shopping center. EDC Director Dale Kroop was in charge. This is to provide parking for trail users that are currently using the Ferraro and/or Hoyt properties. Mr. Schaefer said it is disappointing that they didn't mention this to the Commission. This property is still owned by the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Kops received a copy of an email mentioning that the sender was pleased that the graffiti at Putnam Avenue had been taken care of, but when he drove by, the graffiti was still there.

Mr. Schaefer noted that he will not be in attendance at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

9. Adjournment

**Ms. Becker made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Blandon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

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