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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, October 1, 2013 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center The following items were discussed:

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

Commissioners Absent: Michael Dunlap, Michael Johnson, Barbara Gigliotti

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Review Minutes of September 3, 2013

On page 2, second paragraph, first line, insert Council after Legislative; 4th paragraph, first line, change hay to may

Mr. Weiner made a motion to approve the minutes of September 3rd as corrected. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

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

Mr. Kops reported that the State of Connecticut still controls the Westwoods Road intersection. Economic Development Director Dale Kroop spoke to a representative at the State and they told him they are looking into it. Mr. Kops is in touch with DOT trying to get reimbursement for approximately \$300,000 for the Skiff Street underpass project. There are some additional smaller amounts still to be submitted. They are not going to reimburse for the sealer under the tunnel, but they will reimburse for the painting.

Mr. Schaefer read in the paper that Talbot's signed a new lease. Mr. Hoyt was very happy and thanked the Town for the work that was done.

Mr. Schaefer was up in the northern section taking photos, and he said Public Works must be been there recently because it looked pristine.

Mr. Bandon said there are a lot of trail users from the Valley and Shoreline. He mentioned that perhaps the Commission could have an open house at the Lock Keeper's House in the Spring and give out trail maps, water, etc.

Ms. Larsen brought in her vest from CERT, which might be a good idea for Commissioners. The vest would make Commissioners visible when they are on the trail. Ms. Larsen will get the details on the cost of the vests and available colors. Mr. Horowitz mentioned an incident when he was riding his bike on the trail, and a man was walking his dog without a leash. He asked the person to leash the dog, and the person questioned who he was and asked for an ID when he told him he was a trail commissioner.

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

Mr. Bandon mentioned fences down behind the bike shop and the bar. Mr. Bandon took pictures of the buses using the Sherman Avenue parking lot. He and his wife feel that perhaps the students that are not allowed to have their cars on campus are parking in the lot and the buses are picking them up there. Mr. Kops will check into this. Ms. Masi, the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer, is aware.

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

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

Mr. Kops reported that he received an email from Dale Kroop about a charette (workshop) as to how to integrate the trail with the community surrounding it on the New Haven side of the trail.

7. Old Business

Mr. Kops spoke to PW about repairing the fences along the trail. They have the material and plan to do it this fall. PW is looking into hiring a firm to make repairs on the trail because it is too big a job for them. We have some funds and are looking for additional money. Mr. Weiner asked what kind of work has to be done. Mr. Kops replied that repair is needed where roots have come through, as well as repair/replace stone dust and install catch basins under the Sherman Avenue Bridge.

Mr. Schaefer met with Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture, who wanted to discuss the rules that apply to the Farmington Canal Greenway and other parks. This came up because private organizations/charities want to hold events on the trail. He understands that some parks in Hamden are rented for certain purposes. The safety of users is important, and uses should be reviewed by the Town. There was some discussion at our last meeting about whether or not trail rules are posted. They are posted at Todd Street and Mt. Sanford Road. The sign at Mt. Sanford was interesting, and Mr. Schaefer copy for Commissioners to review. Mr. Schaefer said he visited Montgomery, AL and saw some interesting signage. He mentioned the posts along the trail with some history on the top covered by plexiglass. They are no longer readable. Montgomery has put up signs commemorating certain things that happened there. They are one sentence, and very readable. These signs are placed around the city. He thinks they are metal. The concept of having something that someone could read in 15 seconds instead of ten minutes is a good one. We need to look at these in the next year or so.

Mr. Horowitz mentioned the Lock Keeper's house and the Powder Farm as good locations for historic markers. Mr. Schaefer mentioned an area between Mather and Treadwell where the RWA is using property to filter water, and perhaps at the bridges north of Todd Street for a description of Sleeping Giant, or something about the railroad or the canal. He also mentioned a stone path near the bridge at Brooksvale which is the original pathway to the canal.

There was discussion on bench in memory of Campbell Stubbs.

8. New Business

Mr. Bandon questioned why the trail is not plowed in the winter. Mr. Schaefer said that the northern portion is usually left for cross country skiers, and the southern portion is plowed. Mr. Horowitz suggested that if PW does plow the trail, they should leave a couple of inches to prevent plow damage to the trail.

There was discussion on the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association web site. The old site still comes up, but the new one is farmingtoncanalgreenway.org. Mr. Horowitz is the web master. Ms. Larson mentioned that she would still be interested in doing a Facebook page for the Commission once she gets permission from the Town.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Horowitz made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission