



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 an informal session at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. A quorum was not available. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: David Schaefer, Bill Horowitz, Johanna Becker

Commissioners Absent: Mike Johnson, Malachi Blandon, Michael Dunlap, Kathy Larson (Excused), Richard Weiner

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 December 5, 2013

Tabled to February meeting due to lack of quorum.

(The December 5th minutes will be resent to Commissioners. A rough draft was sent out in error.)

Mr. Schaefer showed the vests Ms. Larson ordered for commissioners to try. They have a small pocket on the front and a large one on the back where identification can be placed to make commissioners more visible on the trail. Ms. Becker and Mr. Horowitz tried them on and everyone like them.

Ms. Larson emailed Mr. Schaefer today and told him that within an hour of her arrival in Ft. Lauderdale for her vacation, her rental car was broken into and all of her belongings including her passport were stolen. Regarding the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Facebook Page set up by Ms. Larson, it is now up and running and accessible from the Town's web site. She has

received several questions and users are up over 200. One person asked for a walking/biking tour of the trail, which Ms. Larson would be willing to organize. Mr. Schaefer received information from the Connecticut Woodlands Organization with suggestions on how we can publicize our walking group or trail. They print 30,000 booklets and distribute them around the state. Mr. Horowitz said there might be a couple of copies at the Lock Keeper's House. Connecticut Trail Day is in September.

Regarding the repair of the Treadwell Street bridge, the Town's engineering department is working on that and Mr. Kops had the blueprints of the bridge. There was lengthy discussion. Mr. Kops said there are nets in place to protect citizens from falling cement. This is a complicated project needing approvals by the Legislative Council and Mr. Cuomo. This is being funded through the Town's Capital Projects budget. The DOT monitors all bridges. There will be an RFP or RFQ process. They will not be allowed to close the trail, and when they are further along in the process, they should come before this commission with a presentation.

There was discussion on a bench donation for the trail.

Ms. Becker said she was on the trail a couple of weeks ago, and noticed a lot of fencing down north of Talbot's up near the bike store. Mr. Horowitz thinks that might be from last year. Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Kops said a lot of the fencing has been repaired. There is graffiti on the gray fencing near the arts housing, Mr. Schaefer said perhaps we can get Public Works to get us the paint so when we have a good day, we can get it done. Mr. Kops said perhaps we can contact the Middle and High Schools and see if there are any students that would like to volunteer to help.

Mr. Schaefer was on the trail with a group and rode from Hamden High School/Connolly Parkway to New Haven and back. He said the trail was generally in good shape.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission