



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 will held a Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Kathy Larson, Johanna Becker, Mike Johnson, Bill Horowitz, Richard Weiner

Commissioners Excused: David Schaefer, Malachi Blandon,

1. Call to Order

Ms. Becker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of March 4, 2014

Page 2, 9 lines from bottom of page, remove commissioner names and add "several commissioners"

Mr. Horowitz made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4th as corrected. Ms. Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

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

Mr. Horowitz said he was just at the Lock Keeper's House and felt it would be a nice place to have a meeting at some point. The bathroom is working. There was discussion on holding a public meeting at the Lock Keeper's House and announcing it to the public. Mr. Horowitz mentioned Mr. Blandon's wish to meet there on a Saturday and hand out water, maps, etc. The Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Commission has had a couple of meetings there.

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

Ms. Larson reported that there is a lot of new fencing near the bar, and a lot of trash. Underneath the Sherman Avenue bridge was not flooded last time she was there, but today it probably is. Mr. Horowitz asked about the drainage project for that area. Mr. Kops said it was supposed to be done with a LoCIP money. He will check into this. There is graffiti under the bridge. Mr. Horowitz has seen it flooded across the trail. There is also a maintenance issue, as well as the

need for construction. There was discussion on the sand left from the water/runoff, especially at the roadway intersections.

Mr. Horowitz said at the Yale section of the trail, they pulled out the sign posts last fall to make room for the plows. Ms. Larson said the bollards at Todd Street were not there on the south side. Mr. Horowitz thinks Hamden's bollards are too close together and too high and you really have to watch your hands when passing through them. Ms. Becker felt the bollards should have a wider space between them.

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

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

Mr. Kops received word from Public Works that there were gang members out behind Warning Lights (Hamden Industrial Park) harassing one of the Public Works workers. The police were called and the chief said he would look into it. Mr. Kops asked him to keep up patrols in that area. Ms. Larson looks at trailing.com and a reviewer wrote don't go alone on the New Haven end, mentioning kids with baseball bats. Mr. Kops has heard of no incidents. Mr. Horowitz said it is beyond Yale's section, between Division Street and the Hamden Town line. Mr. Kops said he sees the New Haven police chief periodically, so he will mention it to him. He also felt that reports of problems on the trail are probably magnified. Mr. Weiner asked if they ever get calls on the blue alarm boxes. Mr. Horowitz said no, but that the inter-campus ones are sometimes used as regular telephones. Mr. Horowitz suggested riding in the morning and on Sundays and noted the church activity near the trail on Sundays.

7. Other Business

Mr. Kops told the Commission of the passing of Lee Davies. Mr. Davies worked for the Town for 37 years and retired in 2005. He was the Town's liaison to this Commission for several years. Services will be held on April 2nd and 3rd at Beecher and Bennett in Hamden, and later in Naples, FL where his widow Judy lives.

Cliff Cronin, a Wallingford resident would like to donate a bench to the trail in memory of his girlfriend who died in an auto accident in Cheshire at the age of 35. She was a runner and trained on the trail. She also was a fund raiser for several charities. **Mr. Horowitz made a motion to approve the donation of a bench by Cliff Cronin. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

The Rabinowitz bench has not been installed to date.

The Mayor's budget proposes a position for a graffiti remover that would probably include the trail. He felt that a letter from the chair of this Commission supporting that position and stating the reasons would be helpful. The Mayor's proposed budget for maintenance on the trail, which last year was \$2,000, is \$1,800 this year. Mr. Kops discussed this with Mayor Jackson, who said that there is money in the capital budget for improvements to the trail (\$10,000) and also \$200,000 in the Parks budget for parks.

A motion requesting more funds in the capital and operating budgets for more maintenance and endorsing the hiring of the graffiti remover was discussed. The digging up of roots is maintenance. Repaving would be capital. Ms. Larson said she has seen a lot of new heaves. The older ones are marked with paint. The Commission has an account that could accept financial donations. It is possible to raise money to go into the account. In previous discussions,

it was mentioned that the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association was willing to accumulate donated funds for the Commission and then turn the money over to the Town as a lump sum. Mr. Johnson said we should look to private and business donations as a source of funds. There is a trail maintenance line item. Mr. Horowitz asked if it would be possible to get a cost per mile for replacement of the stone dust. Mr. Kops said engineering department would probably be the best department to work with for this information.

Ms. Becker thought we should come up with a cost for some of the maintenance work along the trail in order to request additional funds. Mr. Kops mentioned that the budget is currently being reviewed by the Legislative Council. He said he will discuss these items with Mr. Schaefer.

There was discussion on the upcoming Big Event cleanup of the trail. The Clean & Green Commission joins with volunteers from Quinnipiac University for this project. There was also discussion regarding the new trash can at bus stop at the intersection of Whitney Avenue and Westwoods Road.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Horowitz 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