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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, June 3, 2014 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center The following issues were discussed:

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

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

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of April 1, 2014

On Page 2, item 6, 4th line, correct trailing.com to traillink.com.

Mr. Horowitz made a motion to approve the minutes of April 1st. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Kops reported that the bench for the former superintendent of schools will be placed shortly by Public Works near the entrance to the trail near Connolly Parkway. Mr. Kops is still working with the man who wishes to donate a bench on behalf of his girlfriend who died in a car accident. Mr. Kops will call the bench company tomorrow for details.

There was discussion on the bench near the Cascade Banquet Facility which was destroyed. Mr. Schaefer said it looks like a car hit it. The owner of the banquet facility said the bench was dedicated to a friend of his and he would like to try to repair it.

The Town is looking into a spur trail at the southern end of the fields which will have to go over the water. They will have to put in a bridge, and it will come from behind Breugers and come up

by the Middle School fields. Once we have a drawing Mr. Kops will bring it to the Commission. The spur trail has to be approved by the Wetlands Commissions.

The Town received a reimbursement today for \$280 for a bill he submitted for the trail. The State has also has sent us two reimbursements for the overpayment at the beginning of Phase III. One was \$20,000 and the other was \$30,000. Mr. Kops figures the town has paid 30% of the cost of the underpass.

Mr. Kops said the Plan of Conservation and Development has to be updated every ten years. The Zoning Regulations have to reflect this plan. The first of a series of meetings will be held on Tuesday, June 10th and will hear public input. The Planning Office will try to do a more meaningful job relating the Plan to the Regulations.

Mr. Schaefer mentioned that years ago there was talk of perhaps a spur trail to East Rock Park, and plans to put a dirt side trail through the water company property near Connolly Parkway and Mather Street. Is there anything we might want to do in the future other than maintenance? Mr. Horowitz said the east/west access to the trail is of concern to him. There are several areas where it is difficult to access the trail.

There was discussion on the road markings on Ridge Road. Ms. Larson said the markings are part of the traffic calming project, but she said there continues to be accidents in that location.

Budget: Mr. Kops has not seen the new budget and it has not been posted to date. Mr. Schaefer expressed his concerns to Jim Pascarella, who suggested he speak to Mayor Jackson about it, but he has not done that to date. There was discussion on the roots coming up. Mr. Schaefer said he usually rides from Connolly Parkway to Cheshire and the trail is in remarkably good shape. There is some graffiti and some fencing that needs repair. Mr. Weiner agreed that the trail looks good. He asked if PW inspects the trail regularly. There was discussion on the sign posts along the trail with the history, etc. They are no longer readable. What can we do with those posts that could be useful and durable. Mr. Schaefer said his son is putting up some historic markers in Montgomery, AL that are embossed, so they will always be readable. Mr. Horowitz mentioned putting the QR code in places along the trail to people could access the trail web site.

Ms. Larson has been trying to clean up the information boxes and place QR codes. The keys to the boxes don't work. Mr. Kops will request new locks. Ms. Larson would also like to place maps in the boxes. We have ten miles of trail in Hamden, each phase being approximately 2.5 miles. There are two miles from the New Haven Border to Yale. The painted trail markings start at the north and go south.

Mr. Horowitz said the State is going to pay for completing the trail in Cheshire, and the lower section (Cornwall/Main Street) will go over the wetlands to the west of the Dalton Property on a raised walkway. From Main Street north Milone & MacBroom is working on the plans for that, then there is a third northern section that the state is working on. Funding is still iffy. They are talking about 2-4 years to get it done. New Haven has run into some right of way issues near Orange Street.

Mr. Schaefer explained that Hamden received an appropriation from Congress (Senators Lieberman, Dodd and Congresswoman DeLauro) to be spent by Hamden and New Haven over a period of five years, at \$3 million per year. Because Hamden was ready to build and New Haven was not, New Haven agreed to allow Hamden to use the funds first, and in exchange Hamden agreed that we would not ask for any additional money from the appropriation.

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

Ms. Becker said she was looking around for a location for the Stubbs bench. She feels that it should be near People's Bank. Mr. Schaefer said we would have to wait until the State turns over the property to us. Some of the land will revert to Mr. Hoyt. There is unfriendly signage near the parking lot behind People's Bank. Ms. Becker's second choice was near the Lock Keeper's House. Mr. Schaefer said there are two benches there close together. Ms. Becker said there is still room in that area and there is also a nice vista. Mr. Horowitz mentioned the area near the powder farm where we had to move the trail in case the property owner wanted to use another portion of the property.

Mr. Blandon said Gerald Nolan's wife passed away and his son called about putting a bench just north of Todd Street.

Lock Keeper's House – The Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association has held some meetings there. Mr. Schaefer would like to see an RFP put out for someone to have an ice cream stand there and in return take care of the building. There is a bathroom and a water fountain there. Mr. Kops will discuss this idea with Town Attorney Gruen. Mr. Horowitz said he will be there on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. To 12:00 p.m. handing out free bicycle bells and trail maps.

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

Ms. Becker walked the underpass at Sherman Avenue and said the graffiti is back there. Mr. Schaefer said the other areas where graffiti was painted over are still clean. Mr. Blandon mentioned the broken fence behind the Karate place and said repairing it is a waste of money because they keep breaking it down. A guard rail is needed there. There is also a fence down near the bike shop north of people's bank.

Mr. Schaefer reminded commissioners to email Mr. Kops with their concerns.

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

Mr. Schaefer said the underpass is still in great shape.

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

7. Old Business

Mr. Johnson is involved with a charity called Voices for Haiti. They are holding a walkathon along the trail on Sunday, June 29th. He is looking for participation and support. He has previously held a walkathon on the trail for a cancer fundraiser.

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

Ms. Becker made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission