



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 2, 2014 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

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

Excused: Johanna Becker

Guest: Aaron Goode, Friends of the Farmington Canal Greenway

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

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**2. Review Minutes of July 16, 2014**

Add Kathy Larson to those in attendance.

**Mr. Horowitz made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2014 as corrected. Ms. Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

**3. Report from Dan Kops**

Mr. Kops reported that he, Mr. Schaefer, Town Engineer Bob Brinton, Julie Smith from the Mayor's Office, and John Torgesen of Public Works toured the trail from the overpass on Dixwell Avenue to the Cheshire line. Mr. Schaefer said the trail is in better shape than they thought it would be. There is a general need for stone dust and areas where the paved portion of the trail needs to be shored up. There are also areas where roots have come through the pavement. Mr. Kops will meet with PW's Craig Cesare, Julie Smith and Bob Brinton to determine what work Public Works will be able to do and what items will have to go out to bid. We have \$100,000, \$40,000 of which will be used for the Sherman Avenue drainage project. We are focusing on the portion of our trail that is 15-20 years old to see what repair/replacement is needed. We made it clear to Public Works that if the bollards are replaced we want the lower

height ones. Probably the best thing to do is start repairs at the northern end and work our way down. PW said they have a machine that can spread the stone dust. First they have to eliminate the weeds and roll the area smooth. PW has fencing available, they just need time to get out there to install it. The root problem is spread out, not concentrated in one area. We should continue to mark with yellow paints so people will see the obstacles. If there is an area where there is a large concentration of roots, perhaps we would cut the pavement out and repair. They also talked about cutting the roots along the edge and might try that in certain areas to see how it works. Ms. Larson mentioned that the yellow paint doesn't show up when the yellow leaves are on it, so perhaps we should rethink the yellow and use white. Ms. Larson asked for comments on the facebook page, and they are in line with what the inspection showed. If PW can do a lot of the work, we can get a lot done with the money we have. On the bridge near Brooksvale some planking needs to be replaced. Mr. Horowitz asked if using composite instead of wood. Mr. Kops replied that would be very costly. Mr. Weiner asked if there is a plan to do another inspection and asked if the commission members could be invited. There will be an inspection

scheduled for the remainder of the trail and commissioners will be notified, but it will have to be scheduled on a weekday in order to have the town staff present.

Mr. Kops reported that the bench that will be installed near the power lines is on the Legislative Council's consent calendar for tonight. The paperwork for the bench dedicated to Fran Rabinowitz is missing.

Mr. Schaefer brought up the angled sign posts with information on them along the trail. The information is no longer readable through the plexiglass. There are 11 of them along the trail, and Mr. Schaefer felt if each commissioner took two and went out and took a photo of the information, perhaps we could replace it with less information in larger print so people could actually read it.

Ms. Larson will do 10 and 11 at Sanford Street and River Road. Mr. Blandon will do behind Sergios and near the Melillo bench (8 and 9). Mr. Kops will do 7. Mr. Horiwitz will do 5 and 6. Mr. Weiner will do 3 and 4. Mr. Johnson will do the ones near Burger King and Home Depot (1 and 2). There was discussion on the larger information signs like used at the national parks.

Ms. Larson has done a nice job with the bulletin boards, cleaning them up and posting current information. There was discussion on the locks.

Mr. Schaefer said the areas where the commissioners painted over graffiti are mostly totally clean. We never did the Sanford Street bridge. PW will give us metal paint to match that. The fence right before the arts housing is falling down and graffiti covers the whole fence. The Putnam Avenue bridge has some graffiti. Mr. Schaefer said we don't want to paint over the graffiti that is on the wood, we want to try to wash it off with the graffiti removing equipment. PW has the paint and stencils for the mile markers if we want to do that. Spending a couple of hours on a Saturday morning this fall would take care of these items, and Mr. Schaefer said perhaps the Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion, the 27<sup>th</sup> looked preferable, and Mr. Schaefer will email commissioners. Mr. Kops said the Spring Glen Garden Club has volunteered to do a beautification project at the entrance to the trail at Connolly Parkway. There was discussion on the types of beautification projects that work well along the trail.

There was discussion on bikers not announcing they are passing. Signs were discussed. Rules for Hamden's parks including the trail are being developed. Ms. Larson mentioned that the two bulletin boards are in the northern end of town and there are none on the rest of the trail. Mr. Schaefer said the bulletin boards were included in the original contractor's bid.

4. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street)
5. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive)
6. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway)
7. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line)

One of the commissioners reported seeing a Hamden police officer on a bike on the trail and she said police would be patrolling on weekends in the northern section and on the southern section during the week. He also saw Yale police patrolling in New Haven. There are concerns

regarding safety on the southern end. The trail is closed at dusk, but gangs have been seen hanging around there.

Mr. Goode said he would like to see a big cleanup event in the three towns. He said he tries to work with the New Haven and Yale police. His group had a meeting last year and someone from Hamden attended. Mr. Goode said they do volunteer events such as cleanups, and he has a list of people who might want to come out to help.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

10. Adjournment

**Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

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