



Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7100
Fax: (203) 287-7101

FARMINGTON CANAL COMMISSION

Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden held a Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Schaefer, Mr. Anton, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Horowitz, Ms. Larson

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Mr. Blandon, Mr. Weiner, Ms. Becker

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Review Minutes of November 6, 2014

Informal notes were taken as a quorum was not available.

3. Report from Dan Kops

Mr. Kops reported that the Legislative Council approved the gift of a memorial bench to be installed near the power lines.

The contract for the repair of the Treadwell Street Bridge was awarded to Schultz, but there were no further updates.

The Weswoods Road and Whitney Avenue intersection is still owned by the state.

There is no progress with Public Works to date on the capital improvements to the Trail.

Mr. Schaefer said things are slow right now – there is not much going on. Mr. Anton mentioned graffiti near the Sherman Avenue bridge. Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Anton are willing to paint so if we get a warm day they will go out. He and Mr. Weiner painted the Sanford Street Bridge red, and they also painted the wooden fence near the artists' housing, which is a continuing process. Mr. Schaefer met someone from Public Works and they discussed the fact that there were a lot of

people congregating in the area, and creating a safety issue. There was a section of fencing that they felt if removed would improve the safety of the trail. There will be a police substation in the artists' housing building. The property contains commercial and residential units.

Mr. Kops mentioned that the project at 380 Mather Street (Lencrete) is picking up steam. The owner received approval for an amendment to the zoning map and regulations and will file a request for a special permit to expand the plans for that property. The Tagliatellas are now involved. The buildings on the corner of Mather Street will be coming down, and two buildings have been approved for that site. There is also a plan for apartments on the property on the northern corner behind the fruit basket place. Once the project to the south side is done there will be a connection to the trail. Mr. Schaefer brought new members up to date on this property.

Mr. Schaefer said we have to set a goal for expenditures from the capital budget. The Legislative Council appropriated \$100,000 for trail improvements, he and Mr. Kops have looked at the trail and reviewed what has to be done. They feel we have to start at the northern end and get as far as we can with the funds available, including root removal, stone dust, and cutting back.

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

Mr. Horowitz mentioned the drainage issue at Sherman Avenue. Mr. Kops said there is \$40,000 set aside for that project. Perhaps the bank in that location should be ripped to prevent erosion. Mr. Anton said the trail is one of the best things in Town and it is beginning to show its age. He wondered if there is a list with priorities of things that need to be done. He mentioned the paint flaking on the signs, broken fences, etc. Mr. Schaefer said if you see something, email Mr. Kops, who will contact Public Works. Mr. Schaefer said he has been told that we will not have to repave the trail due to the type of use it gets, but we do have to repair it.

Speed limits have been discussed. At the Cheshire boundary there is a 10 mph speed limit posted for Hamden. Some parks use 15 mph and NYC just made theirs 20 mph. He wondered if the electronic “your speed is” signs are sensitive enough to pick up a bicycle. Mr. Horowitz feels 15 mph is a reasonable compromise. If we are going to have speed limits we need to post signs. Ms. Larson said everyone wearing lycra is going 20 mph!

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

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

Mr. Anton said a large pothole that has been painted with yellow paint needs to be repaired. It is near Sherman Avenue and has been there for many months. The pothole is near two gyms and approaching Cascade, which is at 850 Sherman. Ms. Larson mentioned a pothole behind Superior Stone where pavement has split.

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

Mr. Anton reported a fence down a little north of Burger King and some graffiti on the fence that Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Weiner painted. We have to have Public Works use the graffiti removal equipment on the wood and metal instead of painting over it. A lot of the graffiti is gang related and he suspects a lot of people know who is doing it by their tags.

8. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

9. New Business

Mr. Schaefer said we can continue to meet every month or he can email everyone to see if there is a need to meet. The commissioners agreed that Mr. Schaefer will email Mr. Kops and the commissioners to determine if there is a need to meet.

Ms. Larson reported that Ms. Orłowski, who lives in the condos behind Home Depot, said the maps on the Town website do not show the southern portion of the trail. Mr. Horowitz said the maps are available on the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails website and Mr. Kops can upload them to the Town's website.

Mr. Horowitz reported that the Cheshire trail is being done in three phases, with the southern part being last. They just received bids to do the middle section which includes the crossing of Main Street, so the middle section should be completed within a year. The northern section is further behind and is more complicated in terms of design. The last part will be the factory property where there are wetlands and an active factory, and that could be five years. Mr. Schaefer mentioned being in Delaware where he saw a raised board walk trail.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission