



Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FARMINGTON CANAL COMMISSION

Informal Notes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden held an informal session at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2015 in the lower level conference room (across from Town Attorney's Office) Hamden Government Center The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Weiner, Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Becker, Mr. Horowitz

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Blandon, Mr. Anton, Ms. Larson (excused)

Others in Attendance: Assistant Town Planner Dan Kops, ARC Director Mimsie Coleman, Commission Gerry Tobin

Ms. Coleman went over the revised rules for use of the trail. There was discussion. The rules for the trail are somewhat different from the rules for Hamden's other parks. When Ms. Coleman approached the Town Attorney about the rules for trail use, she advised that the main thing is to include all of the rules that have been in effect. The rules have to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Coleman looked at the park regulations in NYC, and said some of their signs have lengthy instructions. She asked commissioners to think about the regulations and get back to her after the next meeting of the commission. Mr. Schaefer mentioned signs with images. Ms. Coleman said there are signs with images, but images are not available for everything.

Mr. Schaefer mentioned that the trail was almost totally funded by federal highway funds. The signs were included in the original design of the trail. Ms. Coleman asked if commissioners wanted wooden signs throughout. Mr. Schaefer said a landscape architect helped with the design of the signs. We would like signage to be consistent throughout the trail. Mr Schaefer also mentioned that we can usually call someone that we originally worked with for the trail and ask for an opinion.

The next discussion was regarding events held along the trail. Ms. Coleman mentioned many organizations request holding events on the trail and also in Town Center Park. Mr. Schaefer said the commission is in favor of charitable organizations using the trail, but the trail must remain open and the events must be safe for the other trail users. Mr. Horowitz suggested that staging these events not be held on the trail to avoid blocking it for other users. Commissioners were not in favor of for-profits holding events on the trail.

Report from Dan Kops

Mr. Kops reported that repairs of the Treadwell Street Bridge are resuming and they are making good progress. There was more damage than some people thought there was caused by water coming from the road above.

Public Works has the wood to replace the deck of the bridge at Brooksvale. Public Works will use paint to mark the spots along the trail in need of repair. The purchasing agent will work out specs and they will go out to bid to repair damage. PW will handle the stone dust replacement. Mr. Schaefer said the New Haven Country Club had the same problem with roots coming up through their paved trails. The head grounds person at NHCC agreed to meet with Public Works to discuss the methods they use. Mr. Kops reminded commissioners that we have \$100,000 for repairs, plus \$40,000 for the drainage infrastructure under Sherman Avenue. The biggest safety hazards will be addressed first and then repairs will start at the northern end and work toward the south as far as the money goes. Mr. Kops requested another \$100,000 in the 2015/2016 budget.

There was discussion on Mayor Jackson leaving his post as of April 16th for a position in Hartford. If we have an interim mayor for any length of time, perhaps we could reach out.

Public Works has access to the original plans for the trail so they will be able to determine where the stone dust needs to be replaced.

1. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street)
2. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive)
3. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway)
4. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line)
5. Old Business
6. New Business
Date change for November Meeting
7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission