



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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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 2, 2015 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center The following issues were discussed:

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

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Blandon, Mr. Johnson

Guest: Aaron Goode – Friends of the New Haven Farmington Canal Trail

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 February 3, 2015

Bottom of second page, where it says pending substation, change to planned substation at the artists housing on Dixwell Avenue.

**Mr. Weiner made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2015. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

There was discussion on the police substations at the Lock Keeper's house and on Dixwell Avenue at the artists housing project.

3. Report from Dan Kops

Mr. Kops reported that Public Works has had an opportunity to go out and start marking the trail in areas that need to be repaired. They started at southern border and are up to Cascade near Sherman Avenue. They hope to finish marking the trail this week. There are a couple of

severely damaged areas that they will repair themselves. They will make a list of what they can do, then there will be a bid process to start additional repairs at the northern boundary and go as far south as they can go with the funds that were budgeted. Mr. Kops will devote some time in July to helping to get the bid specs ready. He is hoping we can go out to construction sometime in the fall. Mr. Schaefer said this is important. He wondered if the stone dust could be done at the same time. Mr. Kops responded that Public Works can replace the stone dust. Mr. Kops said all of the plans have been scanned for Public Works so they can see where the stone dust was placed originally. All of the drawings are or will be available to PW. Mr. Anton said Public Works has been pretty aggressive about the markings.

Treadwell Street Bridge – the original work is done according to Mr. Kops. They have a cost estimate for fixing the road surface and below the road above the bridge proper.

Mr. Schaefer mentioned that we have discussed some signage for southern Hamden. Mr. Kops said he hasn't done anything about signs since he met with Tracy Pascarella. Ms. Pascarella spoke to Chief Wydra who did not approve the sign she asked for. Mr. Kops is working with Ms. Coleman on the signs and he will report at the July meeting. Mr. Schaefer felt it would be a good idea to meet with the Police Department and get some ideas on any issues along the trail. We had Captain Lujick speak to us in the past but he is now retired. Mr. Kops invited the Chief or his designee to attend the commission meeting and has not heard back.

Ms. Larson said Ms. Pascarella was interested in having the hours when trail use is allowed posted.

Mr. Horowitz said one thing that he gets questions on are the mile markers. He feels that the type people like best is what they use in Southington, a large yellow circle with white numbers. Public Works is of the opinion that painting the numbers on the trail is the best thing. They have the stencils and the paint. We go from north to south on our trail, probably marking every 2/10ths of a mile. It is important to have the markers. Mr. Schaefer said it is important for the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association to determine whether the markers should start in the north or the south.

Mr. Schaefer said he believes New Haven is designing the section to Grove Street. Mr. Horowitz added and then to Olive to Brewery and toward Ikea. He understands that there is an issue with Olive Street.

Mr. Schaefer mentioned trash on the trail behind Home Depot. Mr. Schaefer said he walked the trail from Connolly Parkway south and it is in really good shape except there is a lot of trash in the area of Home Depot, Price Rite, etc. Ms. Becker said Price Rite doesn't have bags except the ones you have to purchase. Mr. Schaefer said their dumpster is right next to the trail.

4. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street)  
No comments.

5. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive)  
Mr. Anton said he rode from New Haven north and didn't see any graffiti between Connolly Parkway and New Haven. There is still some under Sherman Avenue. He will take care of it if Public Works will give him the supplies. There is water along the trail that needs to be dried up before that area can be taken care of.

Mr. Schaefer asked if the Town has taken possession of the property at Westwoods Road. Mr. Kope replied not that he is aware of.

There was discussion on benches. Mr. Kops said the memorial bench for under the power line was available to be installed, as is one for the superintendent.

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

Mr. Schaefer asked if there is any movement on the property along the Parkway. Mr. Kops said the Tagliatella's have purchased it but they are not planning to develop it right away. 390 Mather Street is being developed as an apartment complex. There is a connection from there to the trail. Mr. Kops shared the drawings with the commission. Mr. Schaefer said currently if you are walking on the trail you can't get off at Mather without trespassing through the condo complex. There will be a sidewalk coming in from Mather Street that will go past the first apartment building and connect to the trail. There is a gated emergency access, but that would not be safe for trail users. There was discussion on that portion of the trail which includes a slope.

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

8. Old Business

9. New Business

Mr. Schaefer mentioned the annual picnic coming up on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building at Brooksvale Park. He asked commissioners to let Ms. Tobin know if they will be attending, will they be bringing guest(s) and what food item they will bring to share with the group.

Aaron Goode of the Friends of the Farmington Canal Greenway was in attendance. He said the City of New Haven is still working through the issue of getting construction easements to begin work on Phase 4, Hillhouse Avenue to the canal dock project. It is fully designed and the money is still in place. He said a couple of landowners have not signed the easement agreements. New Haven estimates that portion of the trail will be completed in 2017. There is also some debate about Olive Street being optimal, or should an alternative route be pursued. A gentleman in New Haven is a proponent of the Amtrack corridor, but there are issues with the Feds and Homeland Security. DOT still has the federal money, but all easements must be in place before the funds can be accessed.

Mr Schaefer said Hamden's trail connects to various resources, such as Sleeping Giant, Town Center Park, etc. He feels it would be worthwhile to look at a connection to SCSU in the area of Goodrich/Cherry Ann Street. He also said some day we have to get to East Rock.

10. Adjournment

**Mr. Horowitz made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Becker 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