



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FARMINGTON CANAL COMMISSION

Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden held a Special Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2015 in the lower level conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following topics were discussed:

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

Others in Attendance: Guest John Tolbert, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

John Tolbert addressed the commission on behalf of Save the Parade, a fund raising effort for the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. He wants to help raise funds for the parade by putting on a road race along the Farmington Canal Trail in Hamden. The plan would be to run from the Sherman Avenue parking lot 1.5 miles south and back, so there would be no street crossings. He spoke to the Police Department and was told he didn't need police. He called the Parks Department and has their full support. The race would take place on January 17, 2016 and would go to support the St. Patrick's Day Parade which will take place on March 13, 2016. The route he chose has been used by the Marines for their Toys for Tots run. He would like to start at 8:30 a.m. and be finished by 9:30 a.m. He hopes to get 100 participants.

Mr. Schaefer reminded Mr. Tolbert that the Sherman Avenue Parking Lot will not accommodate that many cars. Mr. Tolbert is hoping runners will ride share, and also, they will be allowed to park at Quinnipiac's York Hill Campus. There was discussion about Quinnipiac students helping to clear snow from the trail. Mr. Tolbert mentioned that he is willing to put logos on the race tee shirts. Mr. Horowitz suggested there be a spotter at both ends of the trail in case regular trail users come upon the race.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the plan for the January 17th fund raising race along the trail as proposed by Mr. Tolbert. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Schaefer suggested Mr. Tolbert call Ms. Coleman prior to the race to make sure there are no questions. He also suggested Mr. Tolbert get in touch Public Works Director Craig Cesare, especially if clearing snow from the trail is required.

2. Review Minutes of September 10, 2015 (as amended)

Page 1 in meeting announcement box, insert space between topics and will

Page 4, first paragraph, change conversations to conversation

Ms. Becker made a motion to approve the September 10, 2015 minutes as amended. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Report from Dan Kops

Mr. Kops reported that repairs to the trail have begun. The first areas repaired are behind the Stop & Shop and Home Depot. They will be starting in northern Hamden shortly. They have identified the areas where there are large holes, and are chopping up pavement, filling and compacting soil, repaving and filling in small cracks with a sealant. They are using a roller. Mr. Schaefer will go out and take a look at the portion that was repaired. He is concerned that the repaving be the same thickness as the original job. Mr. Kops said the first section had 4" paving, but it varies in other sections. They hope to get as much done as possible before the asphalt plants close. Public Works has ordered the stone dust, and has original maps to show which areas have 3', which have 2' and which areas have no stone dust.

Mr. Kops announced that Public Works just purchased two new machines to use on the trail. One is a new mower that will allow more accurate mowing, and the other is a special leaf blower. There is still a \$40,000 LoCIP grant for repairs under the Sherman Avenue Bridge, and the town engineer felt he could come up with a solution in-house.

There is a new offer of a bench that might be the second bench for a particular person. One person has chosen Site 2 and the other has selected Site 4. Mr. Kops will follow up.

Mr. Kops was pleased to announce that there was an independent audit done at DOT and it looks like the Town overpaid by \$.55 for engineering design work on the tunnel.

The Parks Commission is working to finalize park rules. Mr. Kops spoke to Ms. Smith and Ms. Coleman about the kiosk discussed at an earlier meeting and metal signs showing the speed limit and hours of permitted use of the trail.

There was discussion regarding an all terrain vehicle which someone heard was purchased for work on the trail, but it was probably purchased for use at Sleeping Giant.

Mr. Horowitz had an issue with the proposed signage on the trail where it said "no skateboards allowed." He doesn't see that skateboards create any more of an issue than roller bladers, bikes that go too fast, dogs on long leashes, etc. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Horowitz made a motion that skateboarding will no longer be prohibited on the trail. Mr. Anton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Schaefer recommended we give this a try and if people use skateboards on the trail to get from one place to another it probably won't be a problem. Our intent is not to allow jumps or other things to be used on the trail.

Mr. Horowitz mentioned that trail construction is underway in Cheshire from Main Street north to Jarvis and they expect that area to be completed by winter. Cheshire will start on section 3 north of Jarvis, and that should be completed by this time next year. The southern portion that parallels Willow Street has gone back to the drawing board. The State of Connecticut is providing funds for Plainville to start design work.

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

Mr. Blandon reported the bench missing behind Sergio's. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that at one time we discussed having the people donating benches put in a little extra for maintenance. What happens when a bench is damaged. There was further discussion. Mr. Johnson made a motion that we ask people donating benches to donate an additional funds toward a maintenance fund. There was discussion on changing the bolts on the bench installation to make them harder to remove. After further discussion, commissioners decided to think about this over the next month and come to the December meeting with an amount..

Mr. Kops will talk to John Torgeson about the bench that was removed and try to get more information.

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

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

Mr. Anton said there used to be two benches by Breugers, that were destroyed. Perhaps the next person that wants to donate a bench could look at that spot.

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

Ms. Becker asked about crime on the trail. Chief Wydra was at the September commission meeting and mentioned that it is hard to track crime on the trail because there is no street address. Police will now note a location on the crime reports. Mile markers have to be painted on the trail. Somer reports of crime on the trail were crimes that happened near the trail, but not on the trail. Mr. Schaefer noted that Chief Wydra felt the trail is as safe as any street in Hamden.

8. Old Business

Mr. Kops reported there has been no progress at the West Woods Road intersection.

9. New Business

2016 Meeting schedule

The proposed schedule was reviewed, and the following changes were made: Change the February meeting to Thursday, February 11, 2016 and change the July picnic meeting to July 20, 2016.

Ms. Becker made a motion to approve the 2016 Farmington Canal Commission meeting schedule. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Larson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____