



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, January 5, 2016 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following topics were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: David Schaefer, Kathy Larson, Richard Weiner, Mark Anton, Bill Horowitz

Commissioners Absent: Malachi Blandon, Michael Johnson, Johanna Becker

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:34

2. Review Minutes of December 1, 2015

Page 1, Item 3, 2nd Paragraph, 3rd line change warrantee to warantee; 6th line change dissappointed to disapointed

Mr. Weiner made a motion to approve the December 1st minutes as corrected. Ms. Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Report from Dan Kops

There were no updates from Mr. Kops. At the last meeting we talked about how things were left at the trail. The contractor repaired two large areas where they were able to use the hot asphalt. A good percentage of the work has been done. The smaller areas will be more time consuming. When they began to work on some smaller areas, they would have had to bring the hot asphalt from Guilford, and it would have cooled by the time they got it to Hamden. Repairs were made behind Stop & Shop and Home Depot, where it was repaired the last time according to Mr. Anton, closer to the Staples end. Mr. Kops has requested that Public Works makes sure that the repairs are completed in the spring as soon as the asphalt plants reopen. No one in attendance has seen the repair behind Home Depot.

Mr. Horowitz mentioned a fence problem by Odies, probably knocked down last year by snow plows. Mr. Schaefer said there is some fence repair in the contract. Mr. Weiner said he noticed some newer fencing in Cheshire at the town line.

Mr. Schaefer received the Rails to Trails annual report. The state is picking up the funding for Southington and Cheshire, as well as to the Town north of Cheshire.

Mr. Schaefer asked if there was a proposal for a hotel near Quinnipiac. Mr. Kops said there was a hotel approved for Sherman Avenue that has not gone forward. There was another approved at 55 Westwoods Road, but the applicant then came in for a special permit application for housing under the affordable housing act, and those plans have not gone forward. The third hotel proposed is on the Centerville Lumber site to the rear. The hardware store on the right is would become offices, and there would be a five story office building in the front. This has not gone anywhere yet.

Mr. Schaefer asked about development plans along the trail. Mr. Kops said there are two apartment projects being considered, one at 70 Mather Street consisting of 70 units, and a 395 unit apartment project off of Treadwell.

Quinnipiac is planning to put soccer fields on Hogan Road. They have an artificial surface on one field, and a turf surface on the other. They were not approved for lights or artificial turf by the Inland Wetlands Commission.

There is an application coming before Inland Wetlands from Hamden High School to use artificial turf for the baseball field, and if it is approved, it will go on to Planing and Zoning.

The owner of Micro is planning something near the old railroad station off of Sherman Avenue. Mr. Anton mentioned a restaurant in Massachusetts near their trail that was formerly a railroad station.

Mr. Schaefer asked if the Legislative Council would allow an ice cream shop in the Lock Keeper's house in exchange for upkeep of the building. Mr. Horowitz mentioned that the restroom at the Lock Keeper's house has been out of order since the summer.

Mention of spur trails comes up often, specifically near Putnam Avenue. Other locations mentioned were East Rock Park, Town Center Park and SCSU and RWA property.

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)
8. Old Business

Mr. Schaefer mentioned the the commission has to discuss the reserve for the repair of the benches along the trail.

9. New Business

Information from the Town Clerk and the Town Attorney was distributed, asking each commission to decide on a policy for remote participation in meetings. Commissioners were given the information to review and this will be discussed at the next meeting of the commission.

There has been no progress on the signage for the trail. One reason is a discussion on the policy not allowing guns on the trail.

Ms. Larson put a notice about tonight's meeting on the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Facebook page and received three or four comments. One person wanted to see the trail plowed. Ms. Larson responded that a portion of the trail usually is plowed and the remainder of the trail is not plowed so cross country skiers can use it. Ms. Larson will send an email to Mr. Kops for forwarding to Public Works.

Mr. Schaefer will send out an email to determine the need to meet in February.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Horowitz made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Anton 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