



# 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 Thursday, April 7, 2016 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following topics were discussed:

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

Commissioners Excused: Kathy Larson

Commissioners Absent: Michael Johnson

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Review Minutes of March 1, 2016**

Page 1, 5<sup>th</sup> line from bottom of paragraph, change Trial to Trail. Page 2, last paragraph under Mr. Kops' report, line 3, change note to noted, change Wald to Walk, 3<sup>rd</sup> line change notice to noticed.

**Ms. Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as amended. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Mr. Schaefer said he and Mr. Kops received a request for a non-profit to use the trail for a fund raiser. The event will last about two hours on a Saturday and they will not block the trail for other users. Mr. Schaefer told Mr. Kops and Ms. Coleman there would not be a problem. Ms. Coleman said she is setting up a procedure to handle these requests, and asked if the commission wanted someone from the commission to review and sign off on these events. Mr. Horowitz said if we have a set of criteria, and those criteria are met, Ms. Coleman can sign off. Mr. Schaefer recollects that our policy is that the trail remain open for other users, that the group be organized, that staging be adjacent to the trail so as not to block other users, and groups clean up after themselves.

Mr. Schaefer said he rode the trail a couple of weeks ago and there was a lot of graffiti by the same artist. He didn't feel it was in English. The person/s painted the bridge abutment, and from Connolly Parkway north on the fences, and on some of the trail itself, eight to ten places along the trail. Mr. Horowitz asked that we request the Police Department to evaluate the graffiti. Mr. Schaefer said he would take pictures and send them on to the Police Department. Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Anton have done a lot of cleanup of graffiti along the trail, and at one point when they were on Connolly Parkway, someone yelled out from a car thanking them.

### 3. Report from Dan Kops

Mr. Kops reported that the paving repairs on the trail will start sometime soon. It is still too cold and the asphalt plants were not open a week ago, but Public Works is aware that they have to get this underway.

Regulations – Mr. Kops reported that the Police Chief is adamant that we cannot have a sign that says no weapons are allowed on the trail. The resolution proposing an amendment to the ordinance regarding signs was supposed to be heard on Monday but was postponed to a later date. The signs will read All Parks and Recreation Facilities shall be open from sunrise to sunset. No person shall be permitted in a Parks and Recreation Facility when it is closed. There shall be no hunting in, on or above any recreation facility owned by the Town. With the exception of a dedicated golf course, there shall be no golfing in any recreational facility owned by the Town.

Mr. Kops received an email today from the Police Chief, indicating that he, Deputy Chief Capiello, along with a captain and a sargent, walked the trail looking for locations for the installation of cameras and call boxes. The intersections of Alling Street and the Trail, and the intersection of Dudley and the Trail have good sight lines and are good locations for call boxes/cameras. There is an emergency call box on the New Haven side of the trail that covers both jurisdictions.

Regarding the status of the grant application for the spur trail, the application was submitted and we have been awarded \$218,000. There was a design for the 8' wide spur trail connecting Town Center Park to the Farmington Canal Trail and Mr. Kops will bring the plan to the next commission meeting. There was discussion regarding the state deficit.

Mr. Schaefer mentioned the cleanup on Saturday starting at 10:00. Volunteers will meet at the Artist Housing complex on Dixwell Avenue.

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

Fences are down behind Odies. Mr. Kops will talk to Public Works about putting a different kind of fencing in that area, such as a metal guard rail with wood facing.

Mr. Horowitz asked about the construction at the corner of Todd Street and Whitney Avenue. Dr. Henry is building a medical office building there.

There was discussion on the hotel approved for 55 Westwoods Road. When that did not happen, there was approval for housing under the affordable housing regulations. Construction has not begun on that project. The construction on the corner of Dixwell and Mather is complete and the auto parts store is now open. A building scheduled to the rear of that has not been started to date. There is a 393 unit apartment complex scheduled near that location. At 415 Mather Street where the buses used to park, 72-73 units of affordable housing are planned. Ms. Schaefer asked if entrance to the construction site would be across the trail. Mr. Kops said he will check, but he believes the entrance will be from Mather Street.

There are two bridge projects for Skiff Street, one state and one town. One bridge is over the Mill River and one is over the Parkway. They will be ongoing for three years with a lane in each direction open during the whole time. The tunnel will not be affected. Mr. Schaefer asked if the

crosswalk light will be affected. Mr. Kops said he has not heard anything about the light being affected. Mr. Kops said someone recently asked about purchasing the LFE property for youth soccer.

Dixwell Avenue in the area of the Hamden Mart/Plaza will be torn up for about eight weeks for road repair.

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
9. New Business

Ms. Tobin read Mr. Blandon's letter of resignation from the commission. He has been traveling a lot in his retirement and is planning an eventual move to Florida. He has served on the commission for 16 years. Commissioners thanked Mr. Blandon for his service. Mr. Blandon said he would be happy to help out when he is around.

Mr. Schaefer said he will be unable to attend the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, as he will be in New York.

**10. Adjournment**

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

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission