



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, May 3, 2016 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following topics were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Kathy Larson, Johanna Becker, Richard Weiner, Bill Horowitz, Earon Ryan, Mark Anton

Commissioners Excused: David Schaefer, Mike Johnson

Guests: Amy and Mark Romano

Others in Attendance:

1. Call to Order – 7:31

Ms. Becker called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of April 7, 2016

Page 2, first line, last paragraph, change Westwoods Road to West Woods Road; last line, change Ms. to Mr.

Mr. Horowitz made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7th as corrected. Mr. Weiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Amy Romano distributed site plans of the property at 55 West Woods Road. They are currently meeting with the State of Connecticut regarding funding the development of an apartment building. Their plans were approved by Planning and Zoning, with a connection to the Farmington Canal Trail. Their property abuts the trail. Ms. Romano pointed out the required path to access the detention basin, and the path to access the trail. The property is located on the bluff behind Talbots. The development will consist of rental apartments, will meet CHFA

guidelines and will have nice upgrades such as granite counters, washers and dryers in each unit, etc.

Mr. Kops explained that this commission is advisory, and that in order to cross Town property they will need approval by the Legislative Council. They will also need sign off from the Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer that the project is de minimus. Mr. Horowitz wondered if there would be possible runoff onto the trail, and Ms. Romano explained that there would be retaining walls and gravel to prevent runoff onto the trail.

The reason that are working with the state on financing is that there are 15 units designated as affordable housing. The units consist of one and two bedrooms. There was further discussion.

Mr. Horowitz made a motion stating that the Farmington Canal Commission has no objections to the plans for 55 West Woods Road as presented. Mr. Ryan seconded the notion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

There was discussion on the subject of student rentals. Ms. Romano said that they will not be renting to undergraduate students, and that is stated in their documents. Mr. Kops mentioned that the Town's zoning regulations do not distinguish between undergrad and graduate students, but more specific zoning regulations can be applied to specific sites. Ms. Romano mentioned that they will not be clearing the land.

3. Report from Dan Kops

Mr. Kops reported that Public Works has started at the Cheshire line to repair potholes and embankments that were in disrepair. They have finished repairs down to Sherman Avenue. They are doing an assessment of how much paving there is to be done and how much money is in the budget. Mr. Kops was in a meeting today with Public Works Director Cesare and Acting Town Engineer Fuller to discuss repairs to the area under the Sherman Avenue overpass to eliminate flooding.

Mr. Kops had an inquiry from a widow regarding a memorial bench for her husband. Mr. Kops has updated the map since some of the sites had been taken. Several sites are still available. When Mr. Anton and Mr. Schaefer were out painting over graffiti, they found an encroachment onto Town property at Chimney Square. There was consideration made on that property for trucks to back up to the loading docks. The property owner has removed the fence and placed gravel on Town property.

There are a couple of non profits that are going to hold events on the trail soon. They are aware that they can't block the trail for public use.

There has been an amendment to the rules governing the parks in the form of an Ordinance. Unless otherwise especially authorized, the parks are open from sunrise to sunset. Rules also state that no one is permitted in a Town park when the park is closed. There will be no hunting and no golfing in any Town park. The prohibition on firearms has been removed. Ms. Larson asked if the rules are ready for posting/publication. These rules are applicable to all Town parks. Mr. Kops said there will be new signs listing the rules. Mr. Kops will provide Ms. Larson with the rules. Mr. Weiner mentioned a business near the trail whose owners are not happy with some of the rules. Mr. Horowitz asked if the rules address the speed limit on the trail. Mr. Kops felt we could add this to the trail signage. Mr. Kops said the difference is that the rules he mentioned are in an Ordinance. There are other rules to provide guidance.

Mr. Anton said the trail repairs look great. There was discussion on the area behind Sergio's, which was the worst spot.

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

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

Mr. Kops needs to send a letter out requesting that a sturdier barrier be installed behind Odie's Place because the fencing in that area keeps needing repair/replacement.

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

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

Ms. Larson posted about tonight's meeting on the Commission's Facebook page and a woman contacted her saying that she had met someone who wanted to ride from Cheshire to New Haven, and she had to advise her of safety issues. Police Chief Wydra has scouted out locations for cameras and emergency phones. Mr. Horowitz said the only issue he came across is beyond Goodrich Street, where the trail is a little narrow. One time he approached a line of teenagers across the trail that were obviously not going to move. He was able to go around them. Ms. Larson said she found a Facebook page regarding the New Haven project. Mr. Horowitz said there is still a dispute regarding construction liability. There was discussion on the proposed route.

8. Old Business

Mr. Weiner mentioned an earlier discussion about redoing the historical markers along the trail. He mentioned an area where part of the railroad remains that should have a sign. The signs are difficult to read and the Plexiglas has become cloudy.

Ms. Larson mentioned a sign that was found and Public Works wasn't sure where it had come from. Mr. Kops mentioned that Art Giulietti and his intern inventoried the signs along the trail, and that the original signs are documented on the plans for the trail.

Remote Participation at Meetings

Tabled to June meeting.

9. New Business

Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Anton have been out doing some graffiti coverage. Public Works is now talking about cleaning up the railroad trestle bridge over Dixwell Avenue. Ms. Larson mentioned graffiti in an area near Connolly Parkway high up where the overpass meets the Parkway.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Larson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted by: _____