



Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

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 on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in attendance: David Schaefer, Malachi Blandon, Mike Johnson, Bill Horowitz, Johanna Becker, Kathy Larson

Absent: Barbara Gigliotti, Peter Haller, Steve Humes

Others in Attendance: Assistant Town Planner Dan Kops, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Review Minutes of September 6, 2011
Page 1, 5 lines from bottom, eliminate "and is a member of Trails to Track"

Mr. Horowitz made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6th as corrected. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Tunnel Update:

Mr. Kops distributed an update on the tunnel project, which is attached.

Mr. Kops reported that most things have gone extremely well, but the completion date was to be Monday. The contractor is responsible for late charges of \$500 per day should the Town ask for that. The contractor has not asked for an extension. They plan to be done in two weeks time. The pole for communications is holding up completion, and it was ordered three months ago. There is a vendor and a supplier involved, as well as the contractor. Mr. Kops is meeting with all of their representatives. Police, and Milone & MacBroom tomorrow to discuss issues of coordination, etc. KTM has said they can put in a telephone pole temporarily, and Mr. Kops is going to ask that that be installed immediately. The pole was to be shipped and arrive on Saturday. The latest is that the sleeve that has to go inside the pole

has not arrived yet. We are also waiting for the electrical hookup from UI. ATT was out there Monday, and had to install a new cable going into the site for call boxes. UI will install electricity for lights and surveillance equipment.

After seeing the graffiti and noticing that it was kind of dark in the tunnel even with the lights on, Mr. Kops requested that DOT participate in painting the interior two coats of a warm white and on top of that it will have an anti graffiti coating. The outside has already been done. Currently the developer is responsible for any damage done until work is completed and the tunnel is turned over to the Town.

Mr. Kops said the security equipment will be located here at the Government Center, but the feed will be going to the Police Department. Mr. Schaefer asked if the Police Department can look at the tunnel on the screen anytime they want to. Mr. Kops was not sure. The equipment needs to be installed per the plan, and then it could be moved to another location if necessary.

Mr. Kops said when they went to install the signal light pole, they found a crushed storm drainage pipe. The light is now working. We hope to open the trail as it was prior to the tunnel being built, once pedestrian safety can be assured.

There is some erosion. It is possible for some seepage to occur, but there should be minimal problems with seepage because it is under a paved road. Tom Balskus will look at this tomorrow. He feels that the soil has all been disturbed and there is no ground cover to absorb the water. This occurs at the joint of the first and second box culverts on both on the north and south ends of the tunnel. There is no drainage provision inside the tunnel. The attached photo shows ponding on a paved surface, and that has always existed. It might be ponding more since the grading was done. We don't think the water will go into the tunnel. In order to put in a dry well, we would have to get permission from the owner of 100 Skiff Street.

Mr. Schaefer mentioned the wonderful job Mr. Kops has done on this project, giving us updates, etc.

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

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

Mr. Horowitz reported flooding near Sherman on the north side approaching the underpass. Mr. Kops is aware of this and the Town Engineer has looked at it. This is a high priority improvement if we are able to get the LoCIP money. The flooding under the overpass is part of the same problem.

Mr. Blandon reported a limb hanging down on the trail in the same area. He also reported fencing needs repair in several places.

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

There is an area near Skiff Street where the grass has not been cut.

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

Ms. Becker went to look at the area of fencing on Industrial Park Road where PW wanted some fence removed. Mr. Schaefer said if you are going south, behind the new housing, the

fence is on your left. Cross beams have all been removed. Craig Cesare asked if Public Works could take the fence down in order to make it easier for them to mow the grass. Mr. Kops said he would ask the Commission. It appears they took it down anyway. Mr. Schaefer is concerned that the fence was there to separate the traffic from the trail and keeps cars off of the trail. He thinks taking down the fence to make it easier to mow, is a slippery slope.

7. Old Business

Mr. Schaefer expressed his disappointment with the condition of the trail as discussed at the last meeting. He spent four days on the trail making notes on some of the work that needs to be done, especially in the area south of Skiff Street. He noted the lack of mowing, overgrown weeds, etc. Mr. Kops said he had an unsolicited conversation with Public Works Director Craig Cesare and they have started taking care of the trail. Mr. Johnson asked about a regular maintenance schedule. Mr. Schaefer said Ms. Gigliotti has taken on the project of making a maintenance schedule and working with Public Works. Mr. Schaefer said we are having some fence problems along the way in ten or twelve places. The graffiti is another problem. One individual did about 50% of the graffiti and has signed it with a tag. Perhaps the Police know who he is.

There was discussion on repainting the mile markers.

There was discussion on the changes at the Westwoods Road/Whitney Avenue intersection.

Donation of Bench by Mr. & Mrs. James Wrozek

Ms. Becker made a motion to approve the donation of a bench by Mr. and Mrs. James Wrozek to be placed in a location approved by Commissioner Gigliotti. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

8. New Business

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1st instead of Thursday, November 3rd as previously scheduled.

Review meeting calendar for 2012 – Ms. Tobin will email a list of next year's meeting dates for review. Voting on the calendar will take place at the November 1st meeting.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission