



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, January 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mike Johnson, Malachi Blandon, Bill Horowitz, Barbara Gigliotti, Johanna Becker, David Schaefer (by telephone)

Commissioners Absent: Steve Humes, Peter Haller

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

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

1. Review Minutes of November 4, 2010

Tabled to next meeting.

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

No comments

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

No comments

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

No comments

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

Mr. Horowitz reported on graffiti on the fence by the condos south of Home Depot. This is a long white fence covered with graffiti, on the side facing Dixwell Avenue. Ms. Gigliotti said if it isn't on the trail side of the fence, we shouldn't worry. Mr. Horowitz said the graffiti can be seen from the side street and from the overpass. This is a reminder of the problem of solid surface fences. Ms. Becker said it would not look inviting to trail users.

6. Old Business:

Skiff Street Underpass

Mr. Kops reported that feedback was received yesterday from the State Utilities Division. The DOT wants to see the location of temporary and permanent easements for UI utility poles. We have to get UI to put their comments on a plan. Milone & MacBroom is preparing the plan and will send it over. Mr. Schaefer knows someone at UI who would respond immediately, and will email the contact information to Mr. Kops.

The only other item left undone is the feedback from subcontractors on the electrical portion. The design issue should be wrapped up shortly. The Town/State Agreement was approved unanimously last night by the Legislative Council. The Mayor will sign it and it will be sent back to the state and wend its way through the Attorney General's office and highway departments. Mr. Kops said the cost breakdown is interesting. DOT figures it as a 20/80 match, but in reality it is a 25/75 match. It is interesting to see what the state takes for the review of the plans – more than M&M charged to prepare the plans.

RFQ's came in today for the construction management of the project. We received 12 to date, and they have to be postmarked today, so we might get a couple more. The review team consists of Mr. Schaefer, Town Engineer Bob Brinton, Purchasing Agent Rich Cumpstone and Mr. Kops. Each member of the review team has to rank all of the candidates, interview the top five, make a choice, which then has to receive the blessing from the DOT. Only then is money discussed. This contractor will keep their eyes and ears on the project for us (and the state, but the Town pays). We have to follow state guidelines if we are going for a matching grant. Mr. Kops' Status Update dated 1/4/11 is attached.

We go out to bid after the state approves and sign the contract. Mr. Kops said the Attorney General has to review, which takes several weeks. The contract is boiler plate except for the front page and the cost breakdown. In addition to the money set aside for the project, there may be money left over from Phase III.

Once this is done, Mr. Kops will ask Milone & MacBroom to do as much as they can with the left over money (regarding the sidewalk). Sidewalks are no longer part of the project. The state never wanted the sidewalk. DOT mentioned it to Engineering, then coincidentally, Mr. Kops had received complaints/inquiries about the lack of a sidewalk there. Then DOT started making so many requirements regarding the sidewalk, that it became too expensive.

At a meeting of the Traffic Authority in December, it was agreed to put signs up at intersections along the northern portion of the trail, for pedestrian safety purposes.

6.

7. New Business

Benches:

Ms. Gigliotti has spoken with Frank Cooper who is now at Public Works. No benches have been installed recently. Mr. Kops mentioned one that was approved most recently, but the status was not known.

Mr. Kops went out on the trail with Risk Manager Art Giulietti, DCAO Julie Smith, and Frank Cooper to look at some of the problems on Phase I including erosion, drainage near the Sherman Avenue Bridge, root damage, etc. They are looking into what might be done about the drainage

from the Sherman Avenue underpass and north of it. The plans show a catch basin on the east side, which they couldn't locate.

As far as Mr. Kops knows the Westwoods Road project is on schedule. They are working on the retaining wall and reinforcing the bridge over the Mill River.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Commission, Ms. Becker made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission