



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 Special Meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

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

Others in Attendance: Dan Kops, Gerry Tobin

Commissioners Absent: Steve Humes, Mike Johnson, Peter Haller

Mr. Schaefer called meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

1. Review minutes of March 1, 2011

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

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

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

Ms. Becker has had comment regarding the parking behind People Bank at Talbots.

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

An update on the status of the Skiff Street Underpass from Mr. Kops is attached.

Plans for underpass has been approved by DOT. The Town/State Agreement has been approved and signed by the Attorney General. Mr. Schaefer said Mr. Kops has kept on top of this with

DOT, and DOT has an interest in seeing this approved because they have to spend a certain amount of transportation money on trails. The DOT wants to approve the bid legal notice (2<sup>nd</sup> time.) Our goal is to get the culverts in and complete work requiring road closure prior to start of school in the fall. The road closing is to the immediate east of the Stop & Shop driveway. There was discussion on whether or not the trail can be used in the area of construction. We have a construction easement on the FCD property, so trucks will be going up and down that driveway. Mr. Horowitz feels we need a signs up way before construction starts, notifying people that the road will be closed for two weeks. This is especially important for pedestrians. Mr. Schaefer said DOT has requirements to put signs up, perhaps a month ahead, warning of the road closings. The Town will be talking to the business people and will be placing articles in the local papers at the appropriate time.

Milone & MacBroom will be the construction supervisors. Mr. Schaefer again thanked Mr. Kops for his persistence in the efforts to get things done.

Ms. Gigliotti said the construction business has picked up in the past month for the season, but it is still a good bidding climate. Mr. Horowitz asked when would we start notifying the public about the time schedule. Mr. Kops said he will be working with the Mayor's Office on that.

Mr. Kops went out on the trail with Julie Smith, Frank Cooper and Art Giulietti, the Town's Risk Manager, because there have been a few accidents and claims on the northern portion of the trail. Just north of Sherman Avenue is a spot where there should have been a catch basin put in, and there is flooding there that needs to be dealt with. The stone dust has eroded in some areas. Mr. Kops has asked the Mayor's office if LoCIP funds can be used. Those funds can be used for improvements but not for maintenance.

Norm Thetford has some volunteers that are going to repaint the mile markers.

The Town owns the fence at Mutual Housing, and might have to take down 25 feet of fencing because of visibility issues.

There was discussion on the spur trail. It will be built without crossing the stream. Elliott Fuller of the Engineering Department is going out tomorrow to do the engineering work. Mr. Kops is not sure what the finish will be. The purpose of the spur trail is to get from Town Center Park to the trail. This avoids building the bridge and crossing the wetlands. Mr. Kops will keep the Commission informed. Ms. Gigliotti assumes that the town engineer took the grade into consideration. Handicapped accessibility requires no more than a 5% grade, otherwise.

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

A resident of the condos on Mather Street is putting together a cleanup of the trail from Mather Street south on Good Friday. Mr. Schaefer sent an email to commissioners with information.

#### 6. Old Business

#### 7. New Business

There was discussion on safety issues at the New Haven portion of the trail. We believe most of these issues were on the New Haven side of the trail at dusk. There was discussion regarding

young people hanging around at night. New Haven's trail has lighting. Our trail is not lit and is not open after dusk.

#### Bench Donation

Mrs. Vanacore wishes to donate a bench in memory of her husband to be placed in a location near the lockkeeper's house.

**Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to approve the donation of a bench by Mrs. Vanacore. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

#### 8. Adjournment

**Ms. Gigliotti made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Becker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

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