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TOWN OF HAMDEN

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FARMINGTON CANAL COMMISSION

Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 6:00 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building at Brooksvale Park. The following issues were be discussed:

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

Commissioners Absent: Peter Haller, Steve Humes, Barbara Gigliotti

Others in Attendance: Norm Thetford, FCRTTA, Jack (Johanna's husband), Mimsie Coleman, Director of Arts, Recreation & Culture, Dan Kops, Assistant Town Planner, Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

Following the Commission's annual picnic, Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Commissioners welcomed new member Kathy Larson.

There was discussion with Ms. Coleman as to how the Commission and her department might work together. The Commission will probably have more contact with Frank Cooper of the Parks Division of Public Works, but would work with Ms. Coleman on any events that might be held on the trail.

1. Review Minutes of April 14, 2011 and informal notes of May 5, 2011 & June 9, 2011

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

Mr. Schaefer said we haven't dealt with the replacement of stone dust and there is nothing to keep the pavement from breaking off at the edges, which will cause significant repair expenses. Mr. Kops spoke to the Mayor once about gifts of stone dust. Mr. Horowitz said the Farmington Canal Rails to Trail Association would be willing to collect the donations, then the gifts would have to be accepted by the Legislative Council. Mr. Kops will talk to Mayor Jackson again, and

he said because replacement of the stone dust is maintenance, LoCIP money can't be used for that, but there are other areas where it can be used, such as drainage improvements.

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

The West Woods project is on going. Mr. Schaefer said at some point we want to talk about the excess land on the north side of West Woods Road that might give us an opportunity for a safer crossing. Perhaps we might run the trail along side People's Bank instead of along Whitney Avenue.

Mr. Thetford said there was damage over the winter to the Lock Keeper's house, some of which has been repaired. Interior repairs are on going. He will meet with Al Gorman this Saturday. Mr. Schaefer asked if there are still plans for the police substation in the building.

There was discussion of a bench in honor of Campbell Stubbs to be placed in the West Woods Road area.

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

Mr. Blandon reported that the fence behind Whitney Bar and Grill is down and would allow cars onto the trail. There is also a broken fence on the south side of Sherman Avenue underpass. There was discussion on plans for a spur trail from Hamden Middle School connecting to the trail. Mr. Schaefer mentioned an Eagle Scout project along the trail, which is a nature trail off the main trail with a bike rack and marked trees.

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

There was mention of the Pepsico cleanup on the trail and the Earth Day cleanup assisted by Home Depot.

6. Old Business

Mr. Cooper submitted an update on bench donations and other trail issues which is attached.

7. New Business

Once underpass is done, we will start working on a long term maintenance plan for the trail. Barbara Gigliotti is chair of the planning committee.

Mr. Horowitz said New Haven is still working on their section of the trail that was closed during construction. He sees no end to it. Plans for the final portion of the trail to the water are not completed yet.

Mr. Kops mentioned the \$40,000 in LoCIP funds that has been requested for trail improvements, including some drainage improvements.

Mr. Kops said the last time we met we had a low bidder but didn't have the agreement signed. After that we had a hiccup, because this project is predicated on finishing the project quickly and closing Skiff Street for two weeks maximum. There are concerns about the closing of Skiff Street. Mr. Schaefer said originally we weren't going to close the road, but the additional cost of about \$600,000 was prohibitive, so Mayor Jackson chose the road closing as the way to proceed. There will be penalties to the contractor for delays. Work started on July 5th. The trail from Connolly Parkway to just north of Breugers Bagel is closed. Pedestrians have been rerouted to Dixwell Avenue. Two temporary crosswalks are being placed on Skiff Street and

signage warning pedestrians and automobiles have been posted. It is anticipated that the road will be closed to thru traffic from 8/1 to 8/15. There have been some issues with utilities. AT&T, Southern CT Gas and UI lines are supported. RWA is going to put in a plastic bypass on the north side of Skiff Street. The light had to be taken down, but it will be replaced. Guerrero will use a fork life to move the box culverts. The next time we meet the basic work will be done. Mr. Schaefer mentioned the number of crises that have come up even after five years of planning. We will make sure we don't open the tunnel until it is completely ready including lights, security, etc. Security cameras will be connected to the police station. We had decided not to light our trail and only have it open to dusk. New Haven lights theirs. Will lights attract people at night? We will not have gates like New Haven has. Yale Police will be opening and closing their gates.

Mutual Housing Tenants have to cross the trail to get to their parking lot. We made an agreement that we would have safety features where they cross the trail, and another issue is one of our making. When the canal was approved, we approved fencing. A portion of the fence blocks the sight line, so we will be removing about 25' of our fencing to improve the sight line for those exiting the parking lot.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Becker made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission