



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Hamden Government
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Curt Balzano Leng
Mayor

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ZOOM MEETING ID: 954 8418 0794
PASSWORD: trail
CALL IN NUMBER: 1 646 558-8656

Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden, will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 via Zoom. The following topics will be discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Schaefer, Mr. Horowitz, Mr. Anton, Ms. Sharma, Mr. Reger
Commissioners Absent: Mr. Mallory

Others in Attendance: Mr. DeMichelle, Treasurer of the New Haven Hiking Club, Assistant Town Planner Mr. Davis, Commission Clerk Ms. Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of January 5, 2021

Ms. Sharma made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 meeting. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Report from Matt Davis

Mr. Davis had no budget news to report. He and Mr. Schaefer drafted a letter to go to the Mayor regarding continuing of the funding for the repair and upkeep of the Trail. They will finish it up this week. There is no news on the reorganization of the Planning Department with the retirement of Dan Kops. There is a Charter revision Commission up and running, but that will probably have no impact on this Commission. Mr. Davis was able to get information from the Finance Department regarding the maintenance budget. A few years ago there was a bond issue, and \$100,000 was put into the maintenance item for the trail. Over time some of the funds were used and the balance is now down to \$20,000. The goal is to get it back up to \$100,000. Mr. Schaefer said one year the paving of the trail was done by an outside contractor. The next year Public Works did the paving. They were pretty much repaving part of the trail every year. The planking on a bridge was replaced. Fencing was replaced. Mr. Schaefer said he thinks they have done some work on the trail every year. There are currently things to be done on the Trail. Mr. Davis said he could not get a breakdown of what was done and how much each item cost out of the \$100,000. Mr. Horowitz wondered how we can do our job if we don't have all of the information.

Mr. Schaefer thanked Mr. Davis for his report. Mr. Davis then described the budget process. There was discussion on Scott Jackson being the new finance director and his familiarity with the trail. Mr. Schaefer said the letter should go to the Mayor once it is finished and later to the Legislative Council.

There was discussion on whether or not the Trail has been plowed. It was not plowed at Treadwell Street. Mr. Schaefer asked if there is any news about the graffiti. Mr. Anton replied that the Town got out faster than he did and painted it over. He arrived at the Trail with his pain and found the job already done. He said the Trail is getting a lot more use and probably more people are reporting issues. The Town did a great job at Connolly Parkway. Mr. Anton remarked that someone stole the plants out of our planters at the entrance to the Trail. Mr. Anton and the Spring Glen Civic Association did some planting there, and Mr. Anton contributes some plants every spring and fall. They are gone.

Regarding Xander Fioretti's Eagle Scout Project, he is getting an extension of time to finish his project, but not on his other requirements, so he is working on those at this time. Mr. Schaefer thanked Mr. Anton for staying in touch with Xander.

Mr. Horowitz presented some information on the Southbury/Plainville section of the trail. Southington has two miles to go and is moving forward. The Plainville to Southington connection will start going south. The Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing the wetland application. They are having a problem with one business along their route. The work will probably go out to bid later this year. The New Haven Independent had an article saying the city is moving forward with two trails, one the Farmington Canal Trail and one in Westville.

4. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street) – no comments
5. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive) – no comments
6. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway) – no comments
7. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line) – Mr. Schaefer reported that someone told him the dumpster that was in front of the mural has been moved.
8. Old Business
9. New Business

Our guest Mr. DeMichelle said he is a frequent user of the trail and might do some cross country skiing tomorrow.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Anton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission