



TOWN OF HAMDEN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Lauren Garrett
Mayor

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<https://hamden.zoom.us/j/87183041402?pwd=b2hUbVk1MloyQUE1SHIHwkpublhFdz09>

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****If prompted for a password, enter: trail**

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Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 via Zoom. The following topics were discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Anton, Ms. Maloney, Mr. Reger, Mr. Radcliffe, Mr. Cyr, Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Larson

Commissioners Excused: Mr. Horowitz

Others in Attendance: Interested Citizen Mr. Berg, Town Engineer Stephen White, Grants Coordinator Ms. Hazen, Commission Clerk Ms. Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Norman Berg, our guest this evening introduced himself and said this was his first meeting and he was interested in hearing about the trail.

2. Review Minutes of January 6, 2023

Page 2, last paragraph, change play to exhibit.

Mr. D’Agostino made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2023 as corrected. Mr. Reger seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor, two abstentions.

3. Report from Mike Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano was not in attendance this evening, but had spoken to Town Engineer White who was in attendance with Ms. Hazen . They are working with Economic Development Director Eric Johnson. They are looking to get feedback from the Commission. They are putting together a grant application to the Connecticut DEEP, which is due March 1st. This is a planning and design grant for a two year period. In Phase 1 they hope to prioritize trail connections, identify needed structural repairs, build an inventory of trail assets and develop way finding. Phase 2 will use funds to implement structural repairs. The \$1 million dollar grant includes a 20% match by the town, either cash or in-house work. They are currently working on the budget.

Mr. Schaefer said Mr. White viewed the trail on a tour that included Mayor Garrett, commissioners and others and asked why we couldn’t do the already identified repairs in Phase 1, Mr. White said we want to do an inventory of assets, benches, kiosks, bollards, signage etc., so everything will be mapped out to build. The way finding. would be the best position in which to develop our 20% match in connecting our grant opportunity to a patchwork and prioritizing cities to the outdoors, particularly in the southern part of Town. Mr. Schaefer asked if they have identified any connections that make sense. Mr. White responded the strongest approach is how to connect the trail to other places in Town. Mr. Schaefer mentioned the connections the Commission would like to make that haven’t worked out, such as the Regional Water Authority property near Connolly Parkway, and a connection to Southern Connecticut State University. In response to Mr. Schaefer’s question, Mr. White replied that they would use the same bollards as the new one that has been installed on the northern end of the trail. Mr. Schaefer asked how long do they view Phase 1 to be from getting the grant award. Mr. White estimated one year in the planning part.

Ms. Maloney asked and Mr. White responded, if we got the grant and did the structural repairs in Phase One, how long would it be. It would still be the same timeline according to Mr. White’s experience with other state funding agencies. Ms. Maloney said she would like to see the repairs done before other planning is done as there are safety concerns to consider. Mr. White said he could prioritize repairs. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that the Trail is the most used resource in Town and usage has gone up tremendously over the last few years. Mr. White said we still have to plan and design repairs.

Mr. Cyr said we have to prioritize what fits into this grant and choose what makes the most sense in this application. Mr. White described way finding as signage indicating local attractions and destinations along the Trail. Mr. Schaefer mentioned a letter of support from the Commission was brought up at the last meeting and Ms. Hazen said that would be helpful, along with including letters of support from our State delegation.

Commissioners agreed to attend a special in person meeting of the Commission on Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30 p.m. to continue discussion on the DEEP grant application and other items.

Mr. Radcliffe said two years ago we did a survey and saw needed paving, bollards, root cutting, fencing, etc. Commission input helps with the grant application, as well as letters from the State delegation. There is a pull down application on the DEEP website so we can see how they score the applications. Mr. Radcliffe will share the link. Mr. Anton said way finding would be great. We have many out of Town users.

Mr. White mentioned the project to upgrade street crossings in southern Hamden at Alling, Dudley, Goodrich, Hamden Park Drive and Morse Streets. We are working in conjunction with New Haven and improvements will be constructed by the Department of Transportation. The project will raise the grade of crossings to sidewalk grade, narrow street width between curbs and create a space where cars will have to slow down, following what New Haven is doing. Bollards will be the same as the one Mr. Siciliano purchased, which are lower than what we have so handlebars can pass safely, and are flat when removed to avoid tripping hazards. Flashing signage that operates by detection or push button will also be added. The crossings will be ADA compliant. Construction is scheduled for 2024. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that when we built the northern section of the trail, we did all of the crossings except one, which took the DOT four years to complete.

4. Old Business

Ms. Maloney mentioned that a couple of months ago, a friend of hers applied for a bench. She chose a location, but now wants to choose a different location. Mr. Livshits joined the meeting and explained the bench request process and said the applicant would have to start again and that the Legislative Council Approval approves the donation and the location of the bench.

Regarding the loose boards on the bridge, Mr. White said that Mr. Siciliano told him that the repair is more complicated than one would think and they will work on it after the winter.

Ms. Larson mentioned that last month's minutes mention the fence cut by Public Works to allow passage to Meadow Brook Coops, which she now lives. Mr. Schaefer said the paved road along the east side of the middle school goes up to the main road at Town Center Park, and the fence was cut to allow passage to the main road. Ms. Larson will check it out.

5. New Business

There was no additional business.

6. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street) – no comments
7. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive) – no comments
8. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway) – no comments
9. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line) – no comments

10. Adjournment

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. D'Agostino made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Larson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission