



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting and annual picnic at the Veterans Building, Brooksvale Park at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. The following topics were discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Larson, Mr. Radcliffe, Mr. Reger, Mr. Cyr

Commissioners Excused: Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Horowitz

Others in Attendance: Mayor Garrett, Chief of Staff Grace, Director of Arts, Culture, Recreation and Wellness Bivens, Ms. Weinzimmer, Mr. McTague, Former Commissioner Blandon, Mr. Berg, another interested Resident.

1. Call to Order and Public Input

Following the annual Commission picnic, Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

Two guests were present to seek approval of bench locations on the Greenway. Both Michael McTague and Mary Lou Weinzimmer have been working with the Planing Office on this issue.

Mr. Joe McTague said he was here to speak on a bench request by his son Michael, who lives in Boston, in honor of his friend Brian Crozier. He said that Brian Crozier was a close friend and neighbor and played with Michael on several Hamden Youth ball teams. Michael McTague has chosen a preapproved bench location with ID#8, halfway between River Road and Shepard Avenue.

Mr. Schaefer asked for a motion to support the bench request in honor of Brian Crozier. Ms. Larson made a motion to approve the bench request in honor of Brian Crozier. Mr. Reger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mary Lou Weinzimmer was in attendance regarding the bench in memory of her husband, Robert Weinzimmer. She has chosen a preapproved location on the trail between River Road and Shepard Avenue on the east side of the trail, known as ID#11 on the trail map of preapproved bench locations.

Mr. Schaefer read a letter from Mrs. Weinzimmer stating that her husband passed away on April 11, 2020. They were unable to have a service in his honor because of COVID. The Weinzimmers walked together on the trail, and she had the idea that a bench in his memory

would be the best way to honor him. Mrs. Weinzimmer said that she chose a location for the bench that was on the list of Commission preapproved bench locations. It is close to Wentworth's, a location that she and her husband often enjoyed.

Mr. Schaefer asked for a motion to support the bench request in honor of Robert Weinzimmer. Mr. Reger made a motion to approve the bench request in honor of Robert Weinzimmer. Mr. Radcliffe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mayor Garrett said that she is continuing to look for funding for the trail and told of the inspection of the trail over a two day period on a golf cart in order to make a list of necessary repairs and maintenance. She also mentioned the four raised crosswalks with flashing beacons being installed at street crossings in Southern Hamden. Mr. Schaefer mentioned there would be additional funds in the future for safer crosswalks moving north.

Another guest mentioned the trail conditions and the possibility of connections to other areas of town. Mr. Schaefer said that people used to think that the trail was for leisure and exercise, but it is also a commuter line for people going to work in Cheshire and New Haven and a means of connecting Town resources including Brooksvale Park, the Library, the Middle School, and the High School.

Mayor Garrett mentioned the new construction at 4311 Whitney Avenue, and said it would be a gas station with two pumps and charging stations along with affordable housing with retail on the main level. She noted that it is the only gas station on the right heading north in Hamden and would prevent drivers going north from having to turn across traffic to the gas stations on the left.

Mayor Garrett mentioned that areas on the Trail with tree root issues will be repaved. The bridge north of Todd Street was repaired. At street/trail crossings along the trail, there will be only one bollard, similar to the one Mr. Siciliano had installed, at each location. When this type of bollard is removed, the bollard base is level with the ground.

Mr. Berg said he was also going to bring up bollards, and having only one bollard would allow assistive devices to pass.

Mayor Garrett said the gate to the spur trail to Town Center Park is now open. She mentioned the weird path to get to the bridge connecting the Middle School to the Trail. Mr. Radcliffe said some of the edges of the Trail were crumbling. Mr. Berg mentioned the stone dust needs to be replaced in some areas and Mr. Berg also noted that the leaf blowers actually blow the stone dust away. He also said the mile markers need to be replaced. Mr. Schaefer said we are working on that. Mr. Berg also mentioned the Superior Stone Fence encroaching on the trail pavement. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that that is the narrowest part of the trail. This was discussed at last month's meeting.

There was discussion of the grant that the Town applied for but which was not received. Town engineer White said we wanted to use it to purchase equipment, connection studies, mile markers (wayfinding) and repairs. In response to a suggestion to cut roots before they damage the Trail, Mr. Schaefer said you can purchase machines that cut along the edges the

length of the trail to prevent root damage, but they are very expensive. As for trail repairs and improvements, Mr. Schaefer mentioned that there are a number of potential funding sources that are available every year. Congresswoman DeLauro feels the trail is an important piece of infrastructure in the Town of Hamden.

Mr. White said the Town is working with New Haven and the DEEP on safer road crossings in southern Hamden. There was a zoom meeting this week where the 30% design was presented to the public. There was no significant feedback at the meeting. Mr. Reger said that the Shepard Avenue/Whitney Avenue crossing is the most dangerous crossing in Town and asked if that crossing could be moved up to priority status. Mr. White said no, due to the guidelines for the funding and the deadlines imposed. He said the RFP for the crossings currently being designed will probably go out in 2024 with construction beginning later in 2024. Mr. Reger mentioned that people have been injured at the Shepard/Whitney crossing. Mr. White responded that it will be a year or a year and a half before they will work on other crossings. He is not sure if the same design could be used at the West Woods crossing.

Mr. Radcliffe mentioned that the bollard sample discussed earlier is missing. After a phone call, Mr. White reported that Public Works has that bollard.

2. Review minutes of the June 6, 2023 meeting

Mr. Reger made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2023 meeting. Mr. Cyr seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Review Sections of the Trail in addition to discussions above

Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street) no comments

Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive) no comments

Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway) no comments

Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line) no comments

Mayor Garrett thanked the Commission for inviting her and her staff to this meeting.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Cyr made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Radcliffe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission