



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 via Zoom. The following topics were discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Horowitz, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. D'Agostino, Ms. Larson, Mr. Radcliffe

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Schaefer, Mr. Cyr

Others in Attendance: Southington Resident Norm Berg, Hamden resident Domenic Francese, Vincent Pantera, Northampton Trail representative Christie Bannish, Town Planner Livshits Pantera, Commission Clerk Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Horowitz called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment

3. Review Minutes of July 19, 2023

The review of the July 19th minutes was postponed to the October 3, 2023 meeting

4. Report from Mike Siciliano/Eugene Livshits

5. New Business

Memorial Bench Donation in honor of Officer Michael Pantera by the Pantera Family

Mr. Livshits introduced Vincent Pantera, who was in attendance to discuss the wish of his family to donate a bench on the Farmington Canal Trail in memory of his twin brother Michael. Michael was a Hamden Police Officer for many years. Mr. Livshits explained the process for bench approval, starting with the Planning Office, followed by presentation and approval by the Commission, letter from the Mayor's Office to the Legislative Council for the acceptance of a gift by the Town, and Legislative Council approval. He also explained the approved bench locations. Mr. Pantera has been working with Town Planner Livshits. The Pantera Family would like to have the bench located in the Sherman Avenue parking lot between the two large rocks. Mr. Pantera said his parents are still living and have been married 71 years. They are ages 92 and 93, and both are handicapped, which is why this location was chosen. They can park and get to the bench,.. Mr. Horowitz mentioned this location is in the shade. He also said that there has been a trash receptacle there in the past, but it is not there now. There was discussion regarding a plaque for the bench. The current price for a bench is +/- \$2,200, but that may or may not cover the cement foundation. Mr. Pantera will work with Joe Colello and Mike Siciliano of Public Works.

Ms. Larson made a motion to approve the donation of a bench by the Pantera Family in memory of Michael Pantera in the location described as in the Sherman Avenue parking lot between two large rocks. Mr. Radcliffe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

New Commissioner Will Hopkins was in attendance and said he has been in Hamden for a bout a year. He moved here from Providence, Rhode Island and several places before that. He is a nursery stock broker with a MS in Urban Planning. He has worked in Europe and on the High Line in New York City. Commissioners welcomed Will to the Commission.

Mr. Francese asked about repair of the trail pavement. He commutes via bicycle from Elliot Drive in Hamden to Hillhouse at least twice a week. He fell and insured his wrist because of bump in the pavement. He is not sure which town the bump is in, but it is just south of Goodrich Street where Daisy Street meets up with the trail. He reported the problem on See Click Fix and spoke to Town Engineer Stephen White. Mr. Horowitz said we have been talking about paving repairs, but a temporary fix is highlighting the bad spots with bright yellow paint to make trail users aware of them. Mayor Garrett was made aware of the pavement repairs needed on the Trail when she toured the trail on golf carts with a few Commissioners and representatives of Public Works. Mr. Livshits will look at Elliot Drive on the Town's GPS and bring the issue up to Public Works. If the location is in New Haven, Mr. Livshits will ask Stephen White to contact his colleagues in New Haven. Mr. Francese said he just spoke to Mr. White on Friday.

Christie Bannish was in attendance to make the Commission aware of a ribbon cutting in Westfield MA where the trail now goes over several bridges from downtown to the Westover River to Farmington. Mr. Horowitz asked if there was any progress on the trail north of the bridge. Ms. Bannick has not heard anything new about Southampton, but they purchased sections all the way to Westfield. They need to work on signage and mapping. Mr. Horowitz mentioned mile markers.

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) – Mr. Horowitz mentioned trash from the car wash, but said it is on their side of the fence.
9. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line) – no comments

Mr. Radcliffe spoke about the \$500,000 grant that we applied for and didn't receive that would have covered a lot of repairs. There was no official feedback. There are some opportunities for grants possible from the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCROG) and feedback would help in preparing other applications. Mr. Livshits will mention this internally. Mr. Radcliffe mentioned Congressional Earmarks and asked Mr. Livshits to mention this to Ms. Hazen and anything else that might provide resources for the trail.

Mr. Radcliffe said the Mayor mentioned getting in touch with Senator Cabrera regarding funding sources. Mr. Horowitz mentioned repaving bad sections, and said it would be nice if the Town could apply 1% of their paving budget for the Trail. Mr. Livshits said if we had the repair equipment we could keep after it. Mr. Horowitz said some of the paving on the southern portion of the trail is bad and dangerous. We should repair hot spots before the big dollars come in. Mr. Livshits will update the Commission at its next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Mr. D'Agostino made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission