



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 via Zoom. The following topics were discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Schaefer, Mr. Anton, Mr. Horowitz, Mr. Reger, Mr. Radcliffe, Ms. Maloney, Ms. Sharma
Others in Attendance: Ms. Tobin, Commission Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

He announced that Mr. Mallory has moved to Burlington, Vermont, and has resigned his position on the Commission. He then invited Ms. Sharma to tell the Commissioners of her decision. Ms. Sharma said her term on the Commission expires at the end of December, and she will not request a renewal of her term. Her son is now 15 and she looks forward to spending more time with him before he goes off to college in two years. In addition, her work has become more time consuming. Mr. Schaefer said he hopes she will remain an active resident of Hamden. Commissioners will miss Jess and Shoda, as they have been valuable members of the Commission.

2. Review Minutes of October 5, 2021

Ms. Maloney made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5th meeting. Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Schaefer thanked Ms. Paglia for doing a great job on the minutes in Gerry's absence.

3. Report from Matt Davis

Mr. Davis was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency.

4. New Business – Review of the proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule

There was discussion regarding changing the time of the meeting from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m., and Commissioners were in favor of the earlier start time.

Ms. Maloney made a motion to approve the 2022 meeting schedule as amended. Mr. Anton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

The decision was made to hold the December 7, 2021 meeting via Zoom and at that meeting to discuss whether the 2022 meetings will be held in person or via Zoom.

Mr. Schaefer asked Mr. Radcliffe if there have been any developments since the last meeting based on the responses to the questionnaire. Mr. Radcliffe said no, except that Hamden Alliance for Trees has asked him to speak at their January meeting. He has agreed if he has the approval of the Commissioners, and all agreed.

Mr. Radcliffe also mentioned the possibility of getting consulting funds from the Town to develop a strategic plan for the trail. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that Mr. Davis sent a memo on that subject to Town Planner Eric Johnson. Mr. Schaefer called Mr. Johnson and left a message but has not heard back from him. He also put a call in to Craig Cesare and Rosa DeLauro's office and has not heard back from either of them to date. He will make follow up phone calls.

Mr. Schaefer also suggested we should reach out to the new Mayor, Lauren Garrett. Ms. Maloney said both Mrs. Garrett and Mr. Gambardella attended a fund raiser for the rescue organization she is involved with. She is willing to call Ms. Garrett. The inauguration is the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28th (not an official date from Town Hall). Mr. Schaefer recommended Ms. Maloney reach out to Mrs. Garrett as soon as possible after the inauguration. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that we need to get three new members of the Commission. He feels that we should have a Commissioner to represent southern Hamden, and possibly a minority member. He explained that the Town Clerk has a file of people wanting to serve on Commissions, and she recommends applicants to the Mayor, who then forwards the names to the Legislative Council for approval. He also said if any of the Commissioners know anyone that they think would be an asset to the Commission, please have them contact the Town Clerk's Office.

Ms. Maloney said she was happy to see the bridge repaired near the Todd Street parking lot. She wondered if there is a maintenance schedule. Mr. Schaefer said we have never had one, but the person that used to be in charge of the Trail had one. He is not sure if there is anyone assigned to the trail at this time, and Public Works is difficult to reach. Perhaps it would be better to communicate via email.

Mr. Schaefer described the tours of the trail in the spring of previous years, on a golf cart with representatives from the Mayor's Office, The Planning Office and Public Works. Notes were taken along the way of issues that needed attention. Thanks to Mr. Anton, there is no graffiti! Mr. Schaefer mentioned an article he read in the New York Times about a trail that runs from New York City to Buffalo and to the Canadian border, mentioning the biggest issue was roots growing up through the pavement. He told of some trails, including the New Haven Country Club, that places metal plates along both sides of their trails to prevent roots from encroaching the trail.

Mr. Horowitz asked if we could get 1% of the Town's paving budget allocated to the trail. Mr. Schaefer said there is precedent for that in that the Feds set aside 10% of their transportation budget for enhancements. Mr. Reger said the Trail is a park, so funds should come out the the Parks Department. Ms. Schaefer mentioned that most of the paving funds come from bonding.

Mr. Reger wondered if any of the infrastructure money might filter down. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that Congresswoman DeLauro along with some state representatives held a press conference on the trail saying this is the kind of infrastructure project we want. Mr. Reger asked if we would have to write up any grant applications for infrastructure funds. Mr. Radcliffe said it might be a good idea to put together a proposal using some of the consulting funds from the Engineering Department budget. Mr. Schaefer said the more people working on this the better, and asked Commissioners to let him know if they are interested. There was further discussion on the consulting funds in the Engineering budget. Mr. Radcliffe said in June we contacted Public Works and Police regarding safety, brush needing cutting back and signs at street crossings. Mr. Schaefer said the Police Commission brought this item up at their August 1st meeting, but he doesn't know what was done.

Mr. Horowitz said Cheshire has put stop signs up at all crossings and Southington is going that route. There are different needs at different intersections. There was discussion on Shepard Avenue, Todd Street and River Road crossings. Mr. Radcliffe said it is a good idea to have this information in the plan.

Mr. Schaefer said we should focus on contacting the new Mayor regarding capital funds and consulting funds, and submitting a letter to Congresswoman DeLauro. Mr. Radcliffe and Ms. Maloney will try to make contact.

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

9. Old Business

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Maloney made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Reger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission