

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Peter Franz, Colin Grotheer, Kevin Kane,
Peter Libre (6:18 p.m.)

OTHERS: Bruce Chimento, Public Works Director; Steve Kleppin,
Planning and Zoning Director; Kaitlin Latham, Health
Department; Rebecca Shutes, The Hour

CALL TO ORDER.

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no one from the public present at this time.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES.

**** MR. KANE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING.**

**** MR. FRANZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER COMMISSION MINUTES AS SUBMITTED
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS.

• Walking Update

Ms. Latham said that the Silvermine Walk had taken place on January 6th. Due to the cold temperatures, only a few people participated. The next walk in Silvermine is scheduled for February 3rd. This will be updated on the Facebook page. Also, there was some rescheduling done for the NorWALKer Planning Meeting, which was originally set for January 5th. That meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday January 16th at Silvermine Market at 7:30 a.m. to set plans for walks, identifying walk leaders and raising awareness of the program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Pedestrian Planning

Ms. Latham said that Ms. Lewis was not able to attend the meeting, so she updated the Commission about the meeting on the 2nd. A draft of what the plan might look like has been created with a five-year projection. This outline will be reviewed again at the end of the month and then the draft outline will be sent to Mr. Klepin. There will be a Commission update at the February meeting.

- **Website Update**

Ms. Latham said that she had a website update for the Commission. She has spoken with Ms. Rosett about ways to collect email addresses for interested parties. There will be a button added to the site and this will allow users to add their email to the list. This will be helpful when notifications are sent out such as upcoming public hearings on subjects like the pedestrian plan Ms. Rosett said. This will also allow the public to give input to the Commission.

Ms. Latham said that the GIS maps were in the final stages of review and then will be posted on the website. Discussion followed.

Ms. Latham left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

- **Bike Plan**

Mr. Grotheer presented his report about the various routes. There was a Bike Plan meeting before Christmas recess and after looking at the maps, the group felt it would be good strategy to focus on the east side of town first. There will be another meeting on this at the end of the month. Mr. Grotheer said that he had included some funding for general maintenance such as painting, signage and other potholes in the budget.

Mr. Libre joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

The discussion moved to the adding in walking issues into the 2018-19 budget and the potential of repaving at Calf Pasture. Mr. Chimento said that Parks and Rec would be in charge of the repaving at the beach.

There was also a discussion about recent improvements that were made at Compo Beach in Westport where the Town created a buffer area for pedestrian circulation by where the boat slips are located.

Mr. Grotheer then showed the Commissioners where potential sharrows might go on aerial maps of the area. He said that having some shoulder stripes and bike lanes would help. Ms. Rosett said that the Committee should finalize their proposal with Mr. Chimento and then

present it to the full Commission. Discussion followed about the existing lanes near County Street.

The discussion moved to the Pump Track project. Monica Stokes, an active mountain biker in Norwalk and Gunnar Waldman are very interesting in working on some potential bike tracks. This update may be presented at the February meeting.

- **Bike Share**

Ms. Rosett said that three of the six interviewers for bike sharing now have schedule conflicts for the Thursday interview date. These will be rescheduled. Gotcha Bike shipped a demo bike to Norwalk Inn and Conference Center. The demo bike will be there until Friday. Ms. Rosett said that she will check on the hours that it can be viewed and email the Commissioners right away. Discussion followed.

- **DPW Liaison Meeting.**

Ms. Rosett said that there had not been a meeting in December. She said that most of the items will be discussed on this agenda, so there may not need to be a January meeting.

- **NCC (pedestrian signs)**

Mr. Chimento said that the pedestrian signs were on order and should be up within the next three weeks. A discussion followed about the width of the sharrow lanes and whether there should be door zone.

- **Safety Outreach Committee**

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Aley was not able to attend the meeting, but the Safety Outreach Committee will be meeting sometime later in January.

- **Strategic Plan**

Ms. Rosett said there was no report.

OLD BUSINESS (CONT'D)

- **Water Street & Washington**

Ms. Rosett, Mr. Chimento and Mr. Grotheer met with the Mayor and his administrative assistant, Ms. Laoise King, about the cat tracks. It will require State approval for the installation

and the intersection. Mr. Chimento pointed out that there was going to be major construction going on there and the project will be complicated. Mr. Grotheer will sketch out a plan to be presented to DPW and the Commission before being submitted to the State for approval.

- **Sharrows along North Water**

Ms. Rosett said that biking from East Norwalk to South Norwalk is problematic because the bike lane just stops at North Water. Mr. Chimento reviewed the various locations where the construction is planned at the Maritime when the IMAX is moved from its current location. Because of the street layout, Mr. Chimento said that it was not very safe. Discussion followed. It was suggested that the plan for painting sharrows along the route be included in the Bike Plan Committee's recommendations for work to be done for the balance of this year.

- **Crosswalk at Water St. and Knight –**

Ms. Rosett noted that the agenda incorrectly stated the item was "Water and Knight Street", but it was actually "Wall and Knight Street". She said that she had met with Redevelopment and their plans had showed a cross walk right where the Commission would like to see one. The discussion moved to the Head of the Harbor project. Mr. Chimento said that he has copies of the Redevelopment plan for the area of East Wall from Brook street up the hill to East Avenue. Mr. Chimento and Mr. Grotheer will share their information about the Redevelopment Agency's plans for this area with the Commission via email.

Mr. Klepin left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

- **Bike Trough**

The Bike Trough has been installed and has been unusable. However, Mr. Chimento will repair the trough. Mr. Grotheer asked if they could install a sign pointing bicyclists to the trough.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Move our Meeting Downstairs**

Ms. Rosett asked if the meeting should be held downstairs. It was agreed that Ms. Rosett will contact Ms. Latham to schedule the larger room downstairs.

Mr. Franz asked if Cove Avenue would be repaved in the spring. He asked if the center line could be removed and put in a sharrows. Mr. Chimento explained that the State will not allow the City to use a single center line. It's double or nothing. Discussion followed about the

intersection and the possibility of using small roundabout at Fifth Street and the walkway over the Yankee Doodle Bridge. Mr. Chimento said that his department had spoken with the Governor's Office regarding the Strawberry Hill Bridge at I-95 because it is a main artery and will be used heavily when the bridge construction is underway.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. FRANZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. LIBRE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services