

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 2, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Colin Grotheer; Kevin Kane; Jud Aley; Mike Heslin; Deborah Lewis; Peter Franz

OTHERS: Paul Sotnik, Civil Engineer DPW; Kaitlin Latham, Health Dept.; Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Chris Bisceglie; Rich Mackin, Rebecca Schuetz

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:01PM. A quorum was present.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5TH MINUTES

- ** MR. HESLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**
- ** MR. FRANZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Rosett reported and said that she had met with Susan Wallerstein of the Arts Commission and Jim McDonald. They did a walk from Glover Avenue to Grist Mill and down Main Avenue. She said that there are some outdoor sculptures at some of the Merritt 7 office buildings on Main Avenue and the Arts Commission would like to do a walking tour that would include looking at the sculptures. The walk would include a citizen evaluation of conditions for walking in the area. Ms. Rosett reached out to Professor Bjerke to see if she had students who could help us develop a scorecard to use. They are hoping to do this on a weekend in May or June. Ms. Rosett said the GIS map of Bike Routes Master Plan on the Commission's website shows the regional bike routes such as the East Coast Greenway in green but on the Existing Bike Routes the regional routes are shown in red. Red is used to indicate bike lanes but most of the regional routes do not have bike lanes (or sharrows). The coloring might lead people looking at the Existing Routes map to think there are bike lanes

where none are. She suggested either taking them off all together on the Existing Routes map or leaving them and putting them in green. It was decided to use the same coloring on the Existing Routes map as on the Bike Plan map. Further, where a bike lane or sharrowed route overlaps with a regional route, the color for a bike lane (red) or sharrowed lane (blue) would take precedence.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bike Plan

There was no report.

b. Bike Share

Ms. Rosett said that the committee has met and recommending P3GM who is the vendor currently in New Haven and New Rochelle. She said that the next step is to present the plan to the Public Works Committee on May 1, 2018 at 7:00PM in the DPW conference room. She encouraged any commissioner who is able to speak in favor of the proposal during the public comment section of that meeting. The bike share program could be voted on that night to be sent to the Common Council. If approved by the Common Council it will go to the Legal Department to negotiate a contract. Hopefully this will be complete by the early to mid-summer. Then the real work can start with the vendor. Mr. Kane asked when it will be publically announced. Ms. Rosett said either after the Public Works Committee meeting on May 1st or after the Common Council meeting. She said that she will send a reminder e-mail to the Commission a week prior to the Public Works Committee meeting.

c. Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Lewis said the ordinance that created the Bike/Walk Commission requires that the commission update the pedestrian plan annually. She said that she has been working with the task force to develop some action-oriented goals which she discussed with the committee and asked for feedback. She said that they have identified three priority goals and that she has included some implementation suggestions as well as an appendix with references and resources. She said the goals for the first year which will begin July 1, 2018, are foundational and the three priorities are identifying scorecards, developing a short list of pedestrian trouble spots and understanding engineering and design components of safe a pleasant walking and running. She said they are also hoping to expand the existing NorWALKER program and are looking for regular leaders. Mr. Heslin asked if there is a current list of walk leaders based on the NorWALKER routes. Ms. Latham said "yes" but there are very few. There are 40 routes that have had multiple audits done within the past three years. She will send the data along with the list of current leaders. Ms. Lewis said that there is an on-going initiative with the Norwalk Public Schools and she would like to dovetail with that to increase awareness in the public schools on the benefits and techniques of safe walking and brainstorm on future programs.

Ms. Lewis said that the mission of the Norwalk Pedestrian Plan will be to get more people walking and running by creating an environment and a culture that are more conducive to safe and enjoyable walking and running. She said that Ms. Rosett will be sending the document out to the committee and asked the committee to redline the document and track any changes that

they may have and send them to her within a week from today. Mr. Franz suggested that all transportation hubs have good walkability. Ms. Rosett said that she will send the document to the committee members with Ms. Lewis's contact information for any changes or comments they may have. She also said that they are required by ordinance to report to the Common Council annually and this will go to them as part of the annual report at the end of this fiscal year and will provide input into the strategic plan.

d. Pump Track

Mr. Sotnik said that other department heads had issued a letter in support but that Mr. Chimento said that he did not feel comfortable issuing a letter because his department will have to review it for the City.

e. Safety/Outreach

Mr. Aley said that Mr. Kane has sent the information to Nancy on Norwalk regarding Maple Street, and that the next project that will be profiled is Norwalk Community College. He said that Ms. Bisceglie is a member of the sub-committee. Ms. Bisceglie said they will also be working on a bike safety clinic which was going to be held in May but it has been postponed until the fall. There is a summer camp for Norwalk youth held at the Wilton YMCA which has a bike safety component. Ms. Bisceglie will be getting the curriculum. She also said that she has recently been certified as an instructor by the League of American Bicyclists. She said that she was also thinking of contacting the Carver Center as they also have a summer program. Ms. Rosett asked if the clinic in the fall is just for kids. Ms. Bisceglie said "yes" but that it is for the community. Ms. Rosett said that Sound Cyclist will also be having a seminar at the Wilton YMCA for adults getting back into bicycling later this month. She also said that anything we can do to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety and publicize it is a good thing.

f. Strategic Plan

Ms. Rosett said an evaluation of this year's strategic plan will be discussed at the May meeting as well as discussing a strategic plan for the coming year. She asked the committee if there is anyone else who would like to be involved in the committee. Ms. D'Amore offered her help as she has a lot of strategic planning experience.

g. Website

There was no report.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Walking Update

Ms. Latham said that the American Heart Association is working with the Merritt 7 complex to sponsor a walking event this Wednesday at 12:00PM at 301 Merritt 7 which is open to the public.

Ms. Latham said she will be speaking this Friday at the Bike Walk Connecticut Annual Summit. She will be speaking about how NorWALKER program been sustainable walk initiative for the whole city.

Ms. Latham said on Saturday, June 7, 2018 there is a walk in Silvermine at 8:00AM which will meet at the Silvermine School parking lot.

Ms. Latham said that there is a webinar coming up on tools for inventorying pedestrian crossing infrastructure. She said that it will be held next Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 1:00PM and that she will send the link to the Commissioners.

Ms. Latham said that she has not received any response regarding the Keeping Kids Safe grant.

b. DPW Update

Mr. Sotnik provided an update on this year's goals for bike lanes and sharrows and said that they have decided to do them in two sections. He presented the map and said that staff will be measuring the areas to confirm whether there is sufficient room for bike lanes. They have discovered that most of the streets will end up being sharrows versus bike lanes due to the curves and widths. Mr. Heslin said that if they will be doing the measuring on a Monday or a Tuesday he would be available and would like to participate.

c. Washington and Water

There was no report.

d. Crosswalk on Wall Street @ Knight Street

Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Yeosock will be including this on the Traffic Authority agenda and that the crosswalk will require the removal of one parking space. Ms. Rosett asked if it should then also go to the Parking Authority for approval. Mr. Sotnik said "yes". Ms. Rosett said that that the Traffic Authority will meet on Monday, April 16, 2018, at 4:00PM at the Police Department and that she is unable to attend and asked if anyone on the committee could attend. Mr. Aley said that he will attend the meeting. Ms. Rosett said to remind the Traffic Authority that this particular crosswalk is part of the Redevelopment plan for the area.

e. Bike Trough Repair

Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Yeosock is working on this but that he is on vacation so there is no update.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Heslin asked if there is a preferred bike donation method. Ms. Rosett said Northeast Community Cycles and they will pick them up and they refurbish them and give them to both kids and adults who need them, and they also provide a helmet. Mr. Heslin suggested refurbishing some bikes and holding a bike safety demonstration at the DPW open house. Mr. Kane discussed the bike refurbish program that he currently participates in at Danbury and he would like to do it in Norwalk. There was further discussion ensued and Mr. Heslin requested that it be included as an agenda item to discuss ideas and options for the DPW open house. Ms. Rosett asked if someone would be interested in heading a committee. Mr. Heslin, Ms. Bisceglie and Mr. Kane volunteered to be on the committee.

Mr. Kane discussed the DOT meeting that he attended last week and said that he spoke at the meeting and that he is very concerned with their plan. He discussed his concerns regarding the proposal to shuttle people around the Yankee Doodle Bridge and also the left hand turn at RT.1

and West Avenue. He said that the meeting is available to view on Nancy on Norwalk and suggested the committee members watch the video.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KANE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services